

Hafa Adai!

Fire permits may be revoked due to early dry season. **PAGE 3**

SBA Guam lays out rules to quality for Restaurant Revitalization Fund. **PAGE 5**

75¢

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FRIDAY APRIL 23, 2021

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Gaming license of IPI is suspended indefinitely

AT A GLANCE

As of 7pm, April 22, 2021

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	18,466
Fully Vaccinated:	14,495
Moderna	
Initiated:	2,816
Fully Vaccinated:	2,140
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	49

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	7,897	12	7,909
Recovered	7,700	8	7,708
Active	53	12	65
Deaths	136	0	136
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			149,749

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	162	0	162
Traced via Travel Screening	126	0	126
Traced via Community Screening	36	0	36
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			26,131*
Days since last community transmission			36

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Casino Commission board ordered yesterday the indefinite suspension of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's gaming license.

» IPI ordered to pay \$18.6M in fees, \$6.6M in penalty

The same order directed IPI to pay \$6.6 million in total penalty within six months, See IPI on Page 4

'Several Jeju Air charters flying in'

» CPA chair says Jeju Air might have been approved to resume leisure flights

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Several Jeju Air charters will

be flying into the CNMI to bring back residents, according to Commonwealth Ports Authority board chair Kim-

berlyn King-Hinds yesterday. Asked about a report that Jeju Air, South Korea's biggest budget carrier by sales, will resume flights to Saipan late next month, May, King-Hinds See JEJU on Page 4

DeLeon Guerrero remains CCC chair

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Commonwealth Casino Com-

mission board chair Edward C. DeLeon Guerrero remains the board chairman after the commissioners voted yester-

day to have a status quo of officers. At CCC's regular monthly See CCC on Page 4

Together, we can put trash in its proper place

TOGETHER, WE CAN

By MIKE SABLAN

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Mike Sablan is vice president of Triple J Enterprises, Inc., a certified public accountant, and chairperson of the Domestic Policy and Recovery Committee of the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers. As an advisory council for Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, the GCEA's mission is to improve the quality of life in the CNMI for all residents.

A case study in 2004 recognized Saipan's solid waste management system as a model for other South Pacific islands to follow. The same year, the island received the Silver Solid Waste Management System Award/Planning & Management Division from the Solid Waste Association of North America, a well-respected group that advocates for the practice of environmentally and economically sound management of municipal solid waste in the region. At one time, Saipan had a solid waste management plan.

Nearly two decades later, here we are having critical concerns about the proliferation of litter in the Commonwealth and the alarmingly higher rate of waste disposal at the Marpi landfill. Both pose a big threat to our health and safety, our economy, and most especially our environment.

While the concept is not new to the CNMI, the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers See TOGETHER on Page 4



EARTH DAY WARRIORS

The CNMI community shows its love for the planet on Earth Day through a roadside wave, organized by Miss Northern Marianas Earth Maria Lael Terlaje, to increase environmental awareness on the islands.

IVA MAURIN

Story on Page 2

INSIDE



BUSINESS

The FDA found problems at a factory making Johnson & Johnson's COVID-19 vaccine.

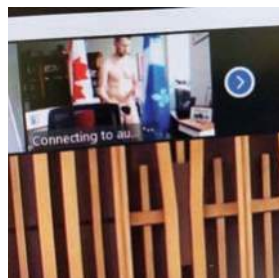
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ASIA

Rescuers in the Philippines found the bodies of four crew members and rescued seven others.

PAGE 17



OFF THE WALL

A Canadian Parliament member was caught stark naked in a virtual meeting of the House of Commons.

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GOT A NEWS TIP?

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Local

AMP staff, volunteers clean up Smiling Cove on Earth Day

By JOSHUA SANTOS
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REPORTER

American Memorial Park rangers and employees were joined by about 12 volunteers yesterday for a cleanup at the park's Smiling Cove Marina from 4:30pm to 6pm as part of the celebration of Earth Day.

American Memorial Park lead ranger Brooke Nevitt said this cleanup is one of a series of monthly cleanups that will happen over the course of the year.

"[The cleanups] will be

in different areas of the park and also outside of the park at historical sites that are connected to the history that the park aims to tell," said Nevitt.

Such cleanups outside the park may include Micro Beach and in other historical sites around the island.

Yesterday's cleanup, along with all future AMP cleanup events, is being organized by former Miss Marianas Shannon Sasamoto, who is now the park's Community Volunteer Ambassador. Sasamoto said she became the



American Memorial Park lead ranger Brooke Nevitt directs volunteers to their cleanup spots at the Smiling Cove Marina of the American Memorial Park for the Earth Day cleanup yesterday.

JOSHUA SANTOS

park's Community Volunteer Ambassador toward the end of her reign as Miss Marianas in February this year. "I decided that during that time it was a great opportunity to start on a different journey, and I'm very grateful that I am able to be a CVA here at American Memorial Park," she said.

As the park's CVA, she is working on arranging more cleanups and other events to create more volunteering opportunities at the park. "We are celebrating Earth Day with the cleanup, but essentially we celebrate Earth Day every day. One of our main

things this year is to really push for monthly cleanups, so look out for monthly cleanups with us," said Sasamoto.

Nevitt thanked all volunteers who came out to help clean and the many others that support the park's numerous programs. She also

recognized Sasamoto's hard work in putting together more volunteering opportunities at the park.

All future AMP events will be posted and promoted on American Memorial Park's Instagram and Facebook pages.

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Fire permits may be revoked due to early dry season

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, which usually issues permits to allow households to burn their yard debris, is prepared to revoke fire permits that have already been issued because of the early onset of the dry season in the CNMI.

According to DFEMS Commissioner Dennis Mendiola, since the dry season arrived earlier than usual and is already upon the islands, the department may start revoking fire permits to prevent surges in wildfires.

DFEMS spokesperson Robert Mojica said there is a point on the island when DFEMS revokes burning permits because of how fast wildfires spread during the dry season. However, it de-

pends on how many wildfires occur during the start of the dry season.

Dry season in the CNMI usually occurs in May and June. This year, though, the dry season started in March. Since then, the CNMI has only seen one wildland fire up at the Wireless Ridge on Capital Hill. The area, Mojica said, is prone to forest fires, especially when the dry season hits.

"I believe we're going into the dry season early. From last year, dry season wasn't until May but we went into dry season starting March this year. The last wildfire we saw for the year was up on Capitol Hill at the Wireless Ridge," he said.

Mojica said DFEMS will start campaigning on social media on how to dispose of dead vegetation and debris without burning them in an

effort to raise awareness of forest fires. "We're going to start social media cam-

paigns about how to dispose of dead vegetation around your house like dispose of

it properly by bringing it to the dump, or to a safe area to burn," he said.

Back in 2020, the CNMI saw 15 wildland fires, the most severe one seen up in Wireless Ridge on Capital Hill. In 2019, the CNMI saw 12 wildland fires.

CHCC to vaccinate more this Saturday

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. will be setting up a pop-up COVID-19 vaccination site at the Kagman Community Center in Kagman this Saturday from 8am to 12pm. CHCC will be administering the Moderna vaccine and has 200 slots available.

To register, visit www.vaccinatecnmi.com, or call the CHCC Call Center at 682-7468, or register in person at the CHCC Call Center at IT&E Chalan Laulau.

On CHCC's official Facebook account, it also reminded the community that the COVID-19 vaccine won't make them sick with the virus itself. CHCC said that none of the authorized and recommended COVID-19 vaccines or vaccines that are currently in development in the United States contain the virus.

The CNMI currently uses two COVID-19 vaccines—the one made by Pfizer/BioNTech and the Moderna Inc. vaccine. The CNMI has paused the use of the Johnson & Johnson/Janssen COVID-19 vaccine at the recommendation of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

So far, the CNMI has administered 37,966 COVID-19 shots. This includes administering 32,961 of the Pfizer vaccine, 4,956 Moderna vaccine, and 49 Janssen vaccine shots.

COVID-19 in Guam

Guam will be administering free first doses of the Pfizer vaccine for ages 16 and 17 old only and the Moderna vaccine for those 18 years and older, and free second dose of the Pfizer and Moderna this Saturday from 12pm to 6:30pm

at the University of Guam's Field House in Mangilao.

According to Guam's Joint Information Center, Guam residents who wish to get vaccinated for their first dose must register at the bit.ly/vaccinateguapr20-apr24 to schedule and learn more about eligibility.

JIC reminds those who want to get vaccinated and those who are vaccinated to bring their immunization card (first dose), proof of Guam residency, and appointment confirmation. (*Justine Nauta*)

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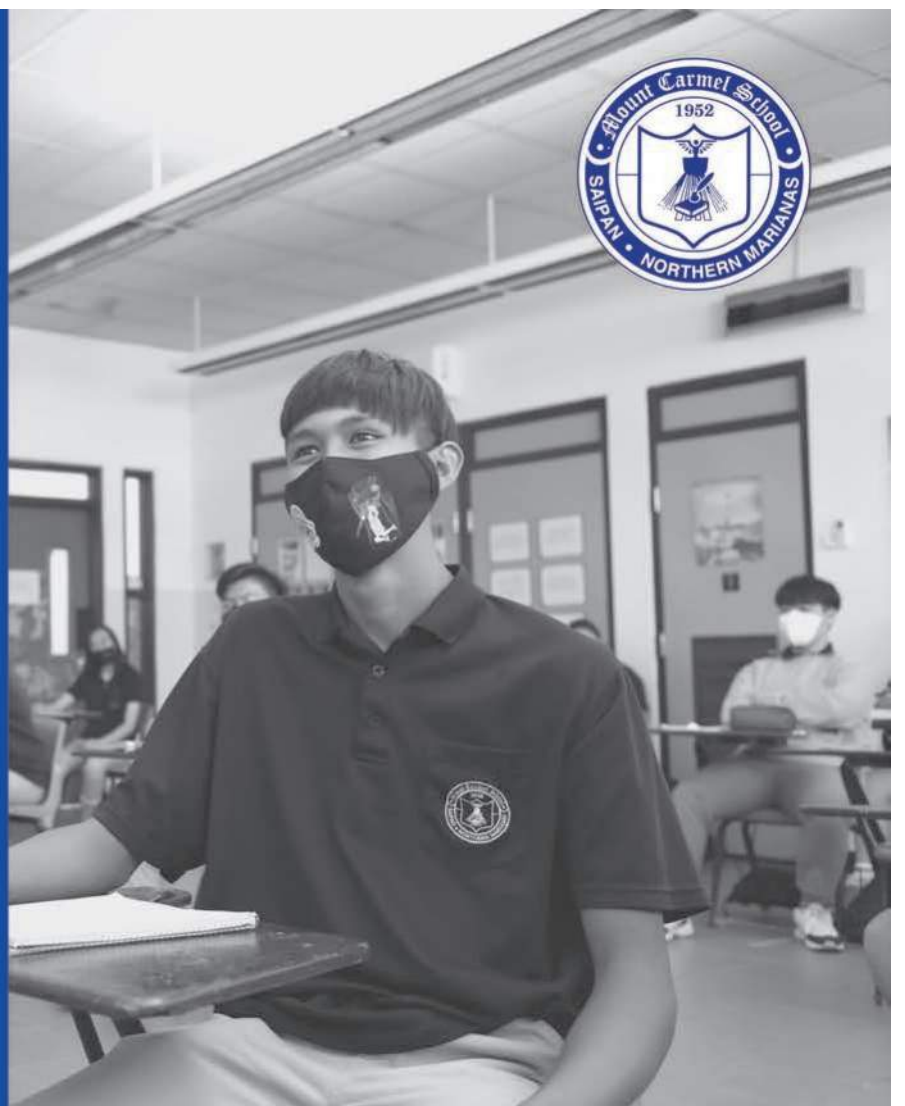
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44 cadets join Police Academy

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety's 26th Police Academy Cycle attracted a large number of participants compared to the previous academy, with 43 police cadets and one Department

of Corrections cadet.

According to DPS spokesperson Dre Pangelinan, the academy kicked off earlier this month and the 44 cadets are expected to graduate in late July or early August.

Pangelinan said the number of cadets for this cycle is significantly



Cadet of the 26th Police Academy Cycle of the Department of Public Safety stand at attention during training. **KIMBERLY ESMORES**

CCC

From Page 1

meeting at the Springs Plaza in Gualo Rai, the commissioners had election of officers for term from May 1, 2021, to April 30, 2022.

DeLeon Guerrero was the CCC executive director for five years when Gov. Ralph DLG Torres appointed him commissioner in April 2020. He was elected chairman the following month.

With the status quo, Rafael S. Demapan remains vice chairman, Mariano Taitano is treasurer, Ramon M. Dela Cruz is secretary, and Diego M. Son-

gao is public affairs/media relations.

It was Taitano who moved to retain the status quo. Dela Cruz seconded the motion.

In an interview after the meeting, DeLeon Guerrero said the board chairman should be the commissioner from Saipan because there's a lot of work for the chairman to do. DeLeon Guerrero said it would be very difficult for anyone from Rota as chairman as he would be traveling back and forth to Saipan. He said there's a lot of responsibility, but the compensation is the same.

"I want to relinquish it actually. I graciously asked them if I could relinquish it. It's not like we get more

larger compared to the last academy that was held back in July 2019. The 25th cycle consisted of just 15 cadets and of that 15, only seven were DPS cadets and the rest were Alcohol Beverage and Tobacco Control cadets.

The academy, which will last between three to four months, expects its cadets to pass all required Northern Marianas College classes like English 101 and all other curriculum that has been planned and prepared by the academy staff firearms training and emergency vehicle operations.

In a statement from NMC, these cadets will be earning 40 college credits from the academy.

"The CNMI Department of Public Safety, in partnership with Northern Marianas College, recently launched the beginning of the 26th Police Academy Cycle with [44] new cadets. As part of their police academy

compensation. We get more work," DeLeon Guerrero said. As chairman again, he vows take those responsibilities very seriously.

"You know we're dealing with some very challenging times," he said.

DeLeon Guerrero pointed out that Public Law 21-38 provides the commission the power to issue new casino licenses. He said if Saipan casino operator, Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC, fails to comply with the CCC's order and a motion come forward and a revocation is sought and it is proved valid, then that would be interesting because Public Law 21-38 gives the CCC the authority to issue new licenses.

license agreement.

"And in those agreements have specific deliverables too and they went from initial gaming facility, which is supposed to be like a training facility, and Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the operation to complete the 2,000 rooms and the \$2 billion investment," he said.

The chairman said they're concerned because IPI cannot seem to complete the initial gaming facility. He said there doesn't seem to be any discussion as to what's going to happen in Phase 1 and Phase 2 since it is his understanding that IPI never submitted a proposal for the Kan Pacific property in Marpi.

"Which now leads me to believe that if anyone were to amend the casino license agreement, you would have to consider the Phase 1 and Phase 2, which was worded into the casino licensing agreement, there are dates there," DeLeon Guerrero pointed out.

The chairman said he understands that Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has the responsibility to enforce the terms and conditions of the casino license agreement.

He said CCC has the mandates when it involves gaming, but a significant part of that agreement is non-gaming such as construction of hotel, water parks, entertainment facilities, a convention center, and so forth.

At the hearing last March 2, Ernest asked the board to suspend IPI's gaming license and be fined a total of \$5 million.

Ernest said pumping up the fine is basically a de facto revocation anyway, because IPI is "financially unsuitable."

training, the cadets will also be earning 40 college credits," said NMC.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, the academy was originally looking to enroll just 21 cadets but the number has surpassed that goal

JEJU

From Page 1

said they have also been advised that Jeju Air might have also been approved to resume leisure flights.

"But as to which flight that might be, I cannot confirm at this time," she said.

She stated that she can say that Korean carriers have been great partners and are critical to CNMI's tourism industry.

King-Hinds said Jeju Air's commitment to sustaining the airbridge between the CNMI's destinations has not gone unnoticed.

"We are grateful for their partnership and we are looking forward to the day when we are back to having regularly scheduled flights," she said.

TOGETHER

From Page 1

nor's Council of Economic Advisers recommends the immediate need to reinstitute a comprehensive solid waste management system. We appreciate Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios' attention to this matter, as well as the work of the Office of Planning and Development to study the universal garbage collection process. Establishing a sustainable, integrated garbage collection system on Rota, Tinian, and Saipan is a critical first step toward making the Commonwealth a cleaner and safer place to live.

Under the GCEA's proposed universal garbage collection system, the program will involve regularly scheduled curbside pick-ups and installing trash receptacles in open spaces. The cost of the collection services will be integrated into the Commonwealth Utilities Corp's billings. CUC, under Public Law 4-47 signed by then-governor Pedro P. Tenorio on Oct. 1, 1985, is mandated to supervise the construction, maintenance operations, and regulation of all utility services, including refuse collection or municipal solid waste. The inclusion of garbage collection and disposal fees with other utility bills like power, water, and sewer are current best practices adopted throughout communities in the United States.

There are three existing garbage collection and disposal services on Saipan, and a single firm cannot cover all the islands. GCEA proposes, through government contracts, for these operators to establish garbage collection zones across Rota, Tinian, and Saipan, mirroring the current electoral precincts system, and offer communal garbage transfer stations within each zone.

The price of progress

The council recommends that the CNMI implement standardized rates and charges across customers and zones. By spreading the cost amongst residential and commercial custom-

significantly.

Cadets will participate in basic training on criminal and traffic laws, patrol/traffic investigative techniques, policies, and procedure, and must participate in class and field instruction.

Quoting Jeju Air spokesman, a news agency in Seoul reported yesterday that Jeju Air plans to reopen the Incheon-Saipan route on May 28 upon permission from the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport.

It was reported that Jeju Air expects that most of the Incheon-Saipan passengers are businessmen, Koreans residing overseas, and their family members.

In South Korea, incoming passengers from Saipan are required to undergo a mandatory two-week quarantine in their homes.

On the other hand, incoming passengers from South Korea are required to undergo quarantine at a facility in Saipan.

Jeju Air suspended Saipan flights starting March 22, 2020 due to COVID-19 pandemic.

ers, we will be able to drive costs down and subsidize public spaces.

Currently, one trash collection company charges \$35 to \$80 for small to large bins for weekly residential pick-up. For commercial service, charges start at \$100 for twice-weekly service or more, depending on the type of establishment. Those who do not utilize these services either manage their transfers or illegally dump their trash.

With the zone system, scheduled collections at specific sites will minimize operational costs, which can be passed on to customers. With an established UGC service that spreads the costs amongst residential and commercial customers, the rates can be potentially lower.

Garbage is everyone's business. Our trash is our responsibility as a community, and the cost to properly dispose of our garbage is ours to share. A CNMI-wide system will improve the overall cleanliness and sanitation in the islands and bring progress for the Commonwealth. Perhaps it would deter people from dumping white goods or commercial food waste in the jungles.

UGC and solid waste disposal are just two components of an integrated waste management system, but they are critical to the successful management of waste. Recycling, education, and landfill management are also key elements in a successful system, which will be discussed in the next two columns.

In small island communities such as ours, proper waste disposal can be challenging, given our remoteness, limited alternatives for solid waste disposal, and economies of scale. Our limited land, fragile ecosystems, and dependence on tourism require that we make waste management a priority. It may take a generation to change how we manage our waste, but as with every big change to improve our community, we need to start somewhere. TOGETHER, WE CAN.

For more information, visit the GCEA on Facebook and Instagram (@cnmigov.economy) or contact them at gceacnmi@gmail.com.

IPI

From Page 1

and pay immediately \$15.5 million and \$3.1 million in annual casino exclusive license fee and annual casino regulatory fee, respectively.

IPI counsel Tiberius Mocanu said they've just been issued the order and that they are still going to review it. "You need to talk to IPI guys about what they [are going] to do next. I'm just defending them legally," said Mocanu in an interview after the CCC meeting.

The lawyer said in these five consolidated cases, he as counsel for IPI and assistant attorney general Michael Ernest as counsel for complainant CCC executive director Andrew Yeom, each submitted their own order to the board that acted as the tribunal.

Mocanu said IPI's proposed order has a different payment scheme and a longer suspension period until paid.

At a regular monthly meeting at the CCC conference room at the Springs Plaza in Gualo Rai, all five commissioners adopted a consolidated final order pertaining to CCC executive director Andrew Yeom's five consolidated complaints against IPI.

With the adoption of the final order, CCC board chair Edward C. DeLeon Guerrero said CCC is ordering IPI to pay immediately the \$15.5 million annual exclusive license fee and \$3.1 million casino regulatory fee for the license for the machines and gaming tables.

As to penalties, DeLeon Guerrero said IPI must pay \$100,000 in the first case, \$1.5 million in the second case, \$1.5 million in the third case,

\$2 million in the fourth case, and \$1.5 million in the fifth case—for a total of \$6.6 million that must be paid within six months.

In an interview after the meeting, DeLeon Guerrero said there's a big difference between a COVID-19 suspension closure versus a regulatory body suspending a gaming license.

"We are suspending the license indefinitely until IPI complies with those orders," he said.

The chairman said the order will take effect 10 days after it's published in the *Commonwealth Register*. "So it will presumably be May 10," he said.

DeLeon Guerrero said they went over violation by violation and the penalties for each violation in the original complaints, all adding up to \$800 million in total penalty.

"So CCC is penalizing IPI \$6.6 million for all the violations noted in the five enforcement actions, and they must pay this not to exceed six months," the chairman said.

If IPI does not make payments in six months, he expects the CCC to file another complaint and it, most likely, will be seeking revocation of the license.

He noted that IPI did not contest the complaints, as they acknowledged it and they stipulated on it.

His concerns, he said, are that this gaming industry—as outlined in Public Law 18-56—provides for specific deliverables. "And those deliverables are: One, you must build 2,000 new hotel rooms of five-star quality. And two, you must invest a minimum of \$2 billion," he said.

DeLeon Guerrero said the Lottery Commission then executed the

SBA Guam lay out rules to quality for Restaurant Revitalization Fund

By **BEA CABRERA**

beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

In a meeting facilitated by Saipan Chamber of Commerce, the Small Business Administration in Guam outlined in a virtual meeting yesterday what the Restaurant Revitalization Fund is and how eligible CNMI businesses can qualify for this assistance.

SBA branch manager Kenneth Lujan told participants in the virtual meeting that the American Rescue Plan Act that became public law last month has appropriated \$28.6 billion for this purpose—to provide emergency assistance to restaurants, bars and other qualifying businesses that experienced business and revenue loss from the economic downturn due to COVID19.

“[Restaurant Revitalization Fund]-eligible entities are businesses that are not permanently closed and its primary business purpose is to serve food or drink,” he said.

The program aims to provide restaurants with funding equal to their pandemic-related revenue loss up to \$10 million per business and no more than \$5 million per physical location. Since the RRF is not a loan, recipients are not required to repay the funding as long as funds are used for eligible uses.

SSC president Joe Guerrero is hopeful about the RRF because restaurants and bars across the nation as well as the territories were some of the hardest hit by the pandemic.

Power outage on April 28 in Kannat Tabla

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the public that there will be a scheduled power service interruption on Wednesday, April 28, 2021, between the hours of 8:30am and 12:30pm in Kannat Tabla.

Interruption is to allow CUC's linemen to safely relocate primary power lines and one primary power pole in coordination with the Kannat Tabla Road Improvement project.

Because of the scale of work that will be performed, CUC asks travelers to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the working area.

CUC continues to work diligently to minimize any inconvenience to its customers. For more information, contact the CUC Customer Hotline at 236-4333 or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilities-Corporation/>). (PR)

“The RRF...will bring much needed relief. It will allow those qualified to reinvest in their business, keep people employed to at least pre-pandemic levels, and provide a safety net for the next year as restaurants and bars still operate through the next 12 months,” he said.

According to Lujan, as with any of their SBA programs, U.S. citizens and green card holders are eligible applicants but he will clarify later if business owners that fit another category can qualify. “Application is ongoing during this ‘pilot period.’ During this period, participants will be randomly selected from existing PPP borrowers who self-identified as members of priority groups. Pilot participants will not receive funds until RRF is open to the public at a later application launch,” he said.

A priority period of 21 days will be set aside for applicants from small businesses owned by women, veterans, and socially and economically dis-

advantaged and will be funded during this period. Any reorganization of an entity for the purpose of qualifying for the priority period will result in automatic disqualification of

the award.

“On Day 22, all eligible applications will be processed and funded until program funds are exhausted,” he added.



WELCOME HOME!

A warm welcome home and *hafa adai* to U.S. Army Capt. Wes Tomokane, his wife, Arisha, and their kids, Athena Grace and Wessy. They are stationed in Fort Campbell, Kentucky but are in the CNMI visiting family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

As for the amount of potential fund that each applicant will be awarded, Lujan said that it depends on which calculation applicants qualify for, with PPP loans deducted from the potential award. “...We try to avoid double dipping, that is why we subtract Payroll Protection Program loans incurred. ...Applicants cannot also apply for RRF if their PPP is still pending. ...Documents needed are a completed, initialed and signed SBA Form 3172, IRS Form 4506-T, completed and signed by applicant

and gross receipts documentation. ...I highly recommend that applicants know what documents they need to be ready with to be able to provide the right information and not incur delay. ...The faster we get the information in, the faster applicants get the funding,” he said.

Right now, the application portal is not open yet. But to obtain more information, contact CNMI Small Business Development Center director Nicole Babauta at (670) 234-5498 Ext 6888.

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Department of Community and Cultural Affairs
Office of the Secretary

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ANNOUNCEMENT

The Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Program continues to be open to accept applications for Front liners. Front liners are defined as:

1. Front liners/workers assigned to working on Covid-19 activities with direct contact of individuals for example: workers at testing sites, workers at quarantine sites, law enforcement assisting at testing sites;
2. Law enforcement, public safety officers, CNMI Homeland Security employees, emergency medical services working on Covid-19 activities with direct contact of individuals, including all individuals who work and provide medical services at the hospital or private clinics;
3. Retail cashiers, gas attendants, sanitation workers, bank tellers;
4. Child care teachers, caregivers, including employees in the educational sector.

Front liners who may not necessarily meet income guidelines for the family may still qualify. For more information regarding eligibility requirements, please call Genevieve Guerrero, CCDF Eligibility Specialist at 664-2576 or email at dcca.jguerrero@gmail.com or Joella Rosario, CCDF Eligibility Specialist at 664-2575 or email at ccdf.jrosario@gmail.com. You may also want to visit cnmiclp.gov.mp to download the CCDF Waitlist Application Packet.

/s/ Maribel D. Loste
CCDF Administrator

/s/ Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero
DCCA Secretary

IPI lawyer argues excusable neglect warrants vacating entry of default

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC has filed a motion with the U.S. District Court for the NMI requesting the court vacate its entry of default against it due to what is calls “excusable neglect.”

In the lawsuit filed against IPI by Winzy Corp., IPI counsel Juan T. Lizama asked the federal court to vacate the default judgment against his client because when an amended complaint was filed with the federal court, the receiver assumed that by sending the complaint out via group chat, someone would handle it, not knowing that IPI had no representation at the time and was struggling to hire a lawyer to represent them in new cases.

Lizama said the receiver’s mistaken assumption justifies as excusable neglect. “A client’s mis-

taken assumption that his attorney in other actions was addressing the matter at issue qualified as excusable neglect,” he said.

Lizama said that Winzy Corp. filed the summons and complaint in October 2020, during the time when IPI struggled to hire a lawyer to handle new cases against the company.

Remy Mafnas, IPI compliance administrator and the one who received the amended complaint, sent the amended complaint via group chat, assuming it would be taken care of.

“She only copied [the amended complaint to] everyone in her chat group... assuming that someone would take care of it. She was unaware that the District Court for the NMI had dismissed the original complaint on Dec. 17,

2020,” Lizama said.

Lizama reiterated that there is good cause to vacate the default due to Mafnas’ mistaken belief that the case was eventually going to be handled by an attorney.

In addition, Lizama argues that granting IPI’s request would not result in any prejudice to the plaintiff. However, if there is any prejudice to the plaintiff if the motion is granted, it could be alleviated by awarding the plaintiff the costs as a condition of vacating the default.

Winzy Corp, which is represented by attorney Mark Scoggins, is suing IPI for allegedly not paying for supervision and consulting services for the casino project back in 2020. IPI allegedly owes \$162,925.

Torres hopes stimulus is spent for children, home

With over \$62 million of the third stimulus payments already out since last week, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres acknowledges that people have different priorities but he hopes that the money will be spent on items for children and the home.

Speaking at a radio news briefing last Friday, Torres said some of the people who just received their stimulus money may want to place the

money in an investment, while others will need to pay their bills and other priorities.

He cited as an example his experience with his children, who kept asking him and his wife, first lady Diann Torres, where their stimulus money is and wanting them to “buy this and that.” He said he and his wife have not given in, though, saying their priority is to make sure that their

children’s needs are taken care of first.

“We all have our priorities and needs. I hope that we can spend this [money for] our children and...the house,” Torres said.

Finance paid out stimulus funds to over 31,000 taxpayers, with each one getting at least \$1,400 either via direct deposit or paper checks. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-21-022

Installation of Primary Screen

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Installation of Primary Screen in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The intent of the contract is for the Contractor to provide all labor, equipment, supplies and materials necessary to complete the scope of work which consists of; the installation of a primary screen (OFC), foundations, sewer piping, sewer valves and valve box, water service, electrical service, water booster pump, basket strainers, and rehabilitation and modification of existing improvements, along with other miscellaneous features, for one unit at Sadog Tasi Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). The work shall be completed with minimal disruption to the daily operation of the Sadog Tasi WWTP. CUC requires the Project to be completed in 180 calendar days from date of award of contract.

The project is funded through Saipan Local Law 20-19.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **April 21, 2021 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No. 17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “CUC-IFB-21-022, Installation of Primary Screen” to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on May 13, 2021, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier’s check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General.

A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers’ questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI’s Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI’s Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor’s preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on April 27, 2021** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Westen Knudsen, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer via email westen.knudsen@cucgov.org and to Marcela Tenorio, CUC P&S, Senior Administrative Technician - marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

WILLIAM GILMORE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLON
Purchasing Officer



Elieceo D. Cabrera
Administrator

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands **OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR** **Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality**

P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950-1304
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www.deq.gov.mp



Jonathan I. Arriola
Director, DEQ

NOTICE OF MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE LANDFILL PERMIT APPLICATION SWMF-S-LF-01-2020

APPLICANT: DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS (DPW), 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan MP 96950, 322-2745/2760.

DESCRIPTION OF APPLICANT’S OPERATIONS: The Department of Public Works (DPW) is proposing to renew its permit for the Marpi Solid Waste Landfill, an existing 26-acre municipal solid waste landfill (MSWLF) on a 43-acre site, with a bottom and side slope-lined landfill system consisting of existing cells numbered 1 and 2. The liner of the cells consists of a 60-mil high-density polyethylene (HDPE) flexible membrane liner (FML) on top of a geosynthetic clay liner (GCL) of less than 1 x 109 cm/sec hydraulic conductivity. A 2-foot operations and drainage layer consisting of engineered fill and a leachate collection system, is on top of the liner system. Appurtenant facilities for the landfill include a groundwater monitoring system, a gas migration monitoring system, surface water management system, public convenience area, leachate collection, storage, and treatment system, scale house, maintenance facility, and administration building. The Marpi Solid Waste Landfill was previously permitted under Permit No. SWMF-S-LF-01-2015, which expired on November 13, 2020.

DESCRIPTION OF LOCATION OF MSWLF: Marpi Depression, Island of Saipan.

PUBLIC HEARING AND COMMENT PERIOD: DEQ will conduct a public hearing pursuant to 2 CMC §3122(d) on May 10, 2021 at 2:00 pm at the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality 2nd Floor Conference Room in Lower Gualo Rai, Saipan, regarding DEQ’s intention to issue the requested permit. COVID-19 protocols will be implemented and all participants are required to wear a face mask at all times. In addition, written comments can be submitted by mail to the Department of Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 501304, Saipan MP 96950; sent by fax to 664-8540; or emailed to greg.reyes@becq.gov.mp. Comments must be received by DEQ by no later than June 3, 2021. Comments received at the public hearing and during the public comment period shall be considered in making a decision and DEQ shall prepare written responses to all significant comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Interested persons may obtain further information and inspect a copy of the application and supporting documents by scheduling an appointment with DEQ, Chalan Pale Arnold – Middle Road.

Please contact DEQ at 664-8500 if you have any questions or if you would like to learn more about the proposed renewal of the Marpi Solid Waste Landfill permit.

Saturday is 20th National Prescription Take Back Day

U.S. Attorney Shawn N. Anderson, for the Districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands, will join the Drug Enforcement Administration on Saturday, April 24, for its 20th National Prescription Drug Take Back Day.

The biannual event will be held from 10am to 2pm, at thousands of collection sites around the country, including in Guam and the CNMI. This event is an effort to rid homes

of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs.

DEA will collect tablets, capsules, patches, and other solid forms of prescription drugs. Liquids (including intravenous solutions), syringes and other sharps, and illegal drugs will not be accepted. DEA will continue to accept vaping devices, cartridges—in addition to tablets, capsules, patches, and any other medi-

cation in solid forms—at any of its drop off locations. It is important to note that DEA cannot accept devices containing lithium-ion batteries. If batteries cannot be removed before dropping off, please consult with stores that recycle lithium-ion batteries.

In 2019, citizens of Guam and the CNMI turned in over 1,650 pounds collectively. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the U.S. has seen an increase in overdose deaths during the COVID-19 pandemic, with 85,500 people dying of a drug overdose in just one year (August 2019 – August 2020), the largest number of overdoses recorded in a 12-month period. The increase in drug overdose deaths appeared to begin prior to the COVID-19 health emergency but accelerated significantly during the first months of the pandemic.

Flushing medications down the toilet or throwing them in the trash pose potential safety and health hazards to others and the environment. This initiative addresses the public safety and public health issues that surround drugs languishing in home cabinets, becoming highly susceptible to diversion, misuse, and abuse.

The following sites in Guam

and the CNMI are designated to receive unused prescription drugs and vaping device products on Saturday, April 24, 2021, between 10am and 2pm:

- Agana Shopping Center (Center Court)
- Andersen Air Force Base Exchange (Entrance to Store)
- Dededo Mayor's Office
- Guam Premier Outlets (Cold Stone Yogurt Bar)
- K-Mart (Entrance)
- Naval Base Guam - Navy

Exchange (Food Court)

■ Saipan Commonwealth Health Center (Outpatient Pharmacy)

- Rota Health Center
- Tinian Health Center

Contact DEA resident agent in charge Kenneth Bowman at 671-472-7384 regarding any questions about prescription drug abuse and any concerns regarding drug-related activity on Guam or in the CNMI. (PR)

'Don't let your guard down'

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Despite 36% of the CNMI's adult population already fully vaccinated against COVID-19, fully vaccinated people should still be careful and practice the 3 W's: wash your hands, wait at a distance, and wear a mask, according to Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther Muña.

Speaking at a radio news briefing last Friday, Muña said that fully vaccinated people shouldn't think that, just because they are already vaccinated, they can let their guard down and not practice the 3 W's.

"That's the thing that's a little scary—when people put their guards down, thinking that 'I'm fully vaccinated, I don't need to do this.' That's not going to work. We need to [be careful] as much as possible. The war against this virus is not over. We still need to continue to fight," said Muña.

She reiterated that getting vaccinated will get the herd immunity numbers up and make the CNMI safer.

What will herd immunity do for us

Muña said that herd immunity will help the CNMI reopen safely. "We have a plan. ... There are things that we're going to be monitoring as well with the [Center for Disease Control and Prevention] guidelines, and making sure that we make our decisions based on data, based on science, based on what is recommended, and that decision will then determine whether or not we are going to have quarantine or not," said Muña.

Ultimately, Muña said, if the CNMI sees more people vaccinated, this will help CHCC, the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, and the administration decide whether to still require quarantine or not.

Speaking at the same media briefing, task force chair Warren Villagomez said the contract with the quarantine facilities can be terminated at any time and that they don't have a long-term contract agreement.

Recently, the CNMI implemented a modified quarantine where CNMI residents who got vaccinated here can avail of home quarantine.

To be eligible for the modified quarantine, Villagomez said in a previous interview, is someone who is from the CNMI, got fully vaccinated in the CNMI but went off-island and then came back. Additionally, those returning residents who are coming back must register at the governor.gov.mp website 72 hours before their arrival, according to CHCC. That website contains the health declaration form that returning residents must fill up. Villagomez said the key words for someone to avail of the modified quarantine is someone being "fully vaccinated in the CNMI." Someone who is vaccinated elsewhere won't be able to avail to the modified quarantine.

According to Muña, of the 36% of those who are fully vaccinated in the CNMI, some have traveled off island and availed of the modified quarantine.

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Opinion

Hafa Adair

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Chauvin's conviction is not our exoneration

In considering the conviction of former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin on all counts in the May 25, 2020, killing of George Floyd, we celebrate a system that we perceive to have worked in this case—but we must do so against a backdrop of thousands of other cases in which no one was called to account for police killings, disproportionately of Black people.

This case was so closely watched precisely because it was a rarity: a criminal trial of a police officer for unreasonable use of force that resulted in death.

The jury found that the officer acted so far outside the bounds of proper policing as to have committed crimes—second-degree unintentional murder, third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter—when he knelt on Floyd's neck for 9 minutes and 29 seconds. There will be attempts to read the result as some kind of vindication for American policing and our system of law, because it arguably demonstrates that good law enforcement agencies and good laws will ferret out and hold to account rogue officers. Such a reading would be tragically mistaken and no longer viable given where we are now, a year after Floyd's death and the protests that followed.

Those demonstrations focused Americans' attention on the racial inequities that endured decades after the end of racist laws meant to hold Black people apart and below white society. Some of those protests turned gratuitously violent, but that tragedy takes nothing away from the self-evident truths that have always been in front of our noses yet are too often ignored—that even though we profess that all men are created equal, we have built a society that dispenses unequal treatment by race and by class, especially in encounters with police.

Chauvin's attorneys argued that the judge's decision not to lock the jury away during the course of the trial was a fatal flaw that tainted the proceedings. But there was no indication that the fairness of the trial was undermined by an awareness of the world in which it took place. For too many years, denying the real world and the real conditions in which many Americans live and interact with police has not protected justice but has, in fact, brought us its opposite.

What was on trial was not merely one officer but the entire U.S. legal system and its ability to deliver equal justice in a nation built in part on the subjugation of Black people.

It is not naïve to believe that the legal system can deliver on that promise, and it is our duty to believe that it must—and to know that we have much work before it finally becomes the justice system we told ourselves it already was.

Chauvin's conviction is less a victory or a vindication than an expression of faith—evidence of justice as yet unseen, but hoped for.

It would be foolish to take delight in the verdict, or in the criminal sanctions that Chauvin will face in eight weeks. We Americans collectively recruited, hired, trained, armed and paid him (and others like him) to do what he did, and we were fine with it, as long as we were spared the details.

But modern technology is putting the details before our eyes, whether we want to see them or not. It's about time.

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Fight the gun violence epidemic like we fight cancer—one small step at a time

While COVID-19 has dominated our public health discussions over the last year, we have failed to adequately address another deadly epidemic.

This epidemic affects more than 300 people every day in the United States and has a fatality rate of about 30%. It claims the lives of more than 3,000 American children and teens per year.

This uniquely American epidemic is one of gun violence.

And just like any public health crisis, there is no one easy fix. Consider cancer. Though we sometimes refer to this constellation of diseases as a monolith, there are, of course, many different forms of cancer, each with its own presentation, at-risk patient populations and modes of prevention.

And while there is no single intervention that will uniformly cut down on all morbidity and mortality due to cancer, we have nevertheless spent the last century and then some working on ways to screen for, treat and reduce the risk of getting cancer, in all its forms.

Similarly, there are many forms of gun violence. And while mass shootings tend to garner the most attention, such incidents actually account for a small portion of firearm deaths in the United States. More common are gun deaths and injury due to suicide, intentional homicide, domestic violence, robbery and assault, and accidental death.

And just like cancer, different forms of gun violence predominate in different at-risk populations, present in different ways and require unique modes of prevention. In other words, the same measures that prevent gun violence in the form of suicide are not necessarily the same measures preventing gun violence in the form of police brutality. They are different diseases under the same diagnostic umbrella.

No one measure, legislative or otherwise, will mitigate all modes of gun violence, any more than an annual colonoscopy will prevent all deaths due to cancer. Those who argue that a particular strategy is not a panacea and—therefore not worthwhile—are missing the point.

For instance, no one would suggest that seat belts eliminate all motor vehicle fatalities. However, seat belts—in conjunction with airbags, DUI laws, improved traffic signals, windshield safety glass and child car seats—are measures that, together, have contributed to a five-fold decrease in traffic fatalities since Congress passed the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act in 1966.

By MICHELLE AU

Los Angeles Times

Michelle Au is an anesthesiologist in metro Atlanta and a state senator in Georgia.



We know how to do this. We've done it before. And now, we can do it again.

This month, President Joe Biden presented a series of modest measures to curtail the gun violence epidemic plaguing our country. The action came about three weeks after the horrific shootings on March 16 in the Atlanta area that left eight victims dead. Of those murdered, six were Asian women.

When Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris visited Atlanta days after the shootings, I was among the local Asian American leaders who met with them. Many among us made the connection between this appalling crime and the rise in anti-Asian violence in the United States against the Asian community. The president assured us more resources would be devoted to the issue of discrimination and violence against the Asian American Pacific Islander community—and that he would move decisively to mitigate the threat of gun violence against us.

The executive actions Biden has taken include increasing funding for community violence intervention programs, directing the Department of Justice to stop the unregulated sales of "ghost gun" kits that can be made from parts purchased online, and encouraging states to adopt "red flag" laws that permit family members or law enforcement to petition a state court to temporarily remove firearms from someone who may be a danger to themselves or others.

The president has acknowledged these incremental solutions are not nearly enough, admitting: "This is just a start. ... We've got a lot of work to do." Larger-scale measures, like the passage of HR 8, which would require background checks to extend to private gun sales and transfers, would require the support of Congress.

Gun violence is a complicated and intractable epidemic. But

See FIGHT on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The heartbreaking tale of NMTI and its employees

Once upon a time, on the beautiful island of Saipan, there was a group of persons, highly trained and skilled in diverse vocations, who were gathered together by a visionary leader who saw a great need to train CNMI locals in vocational education. This visionary knew the contract worker program would soon end in the CNMI, and time was of the essence to replace highly skilled guest workers with highly skilled local workers. Thus the Northern Marianas Trades Institute was founded and, by 2018, it had become a not-for-profit education and vocational training institute.

It must be remembered that the seeds for this activity were planted by an earlier pioneer for adult vocational education in the CNMI, namely Tony Pellegrino, who was assisted in this endeavor by Vic Cepeda, former principal at Marianas High School and voc ed advocate. Also not to be forgotten is the support by former CNMI governor Eloy Inos, as well as the direction and support from NMTI's board of directors, chaired by John "Bolis" Gonzales.

Led by CEO Agnes McPhetres, who was the former president of the Northern Marianas College and had more than 50 years of educational management experience under her belt, the NMTI employees lobbied the CNMI Legislature to turn the Northern Marianas Trades Institute into an autonomous public institution, which would be named the Northern Marianas Technical Institute. One of the benefits of this change to make NMTI a government entity would be that NMTI would be able to apply for federal grants and federally funded student scholarships as well as student financial aid.

Sen. Justo Quitugua agreed with McPhetres and the NMTI employees and introduced Senate Bill 20-106, a bill that would transform NMTI from a non-profit educational institution into a government public institution. This bill passed the House and Senate and became Public Law 20-92.

McPhetres and her NMTI team worked hard during this transition into a government public institution, and through McPhetres, Ross Manglona, Frank Rabauliman, and NMTI instructors and staff, they were able to secure a whopping \$10.3 million Economic Development Administration grant! They were also able to secure \$7 million in Housing and Urban Development funding! What amazing accomplishments!

And how were they rewarded?

They were terminated, or fired, by the new board of trustees under chair Mario Valentino. One trustee who objected to firing the CEO and NMTI employees was Rick Kautz, who believed the employees should transition in and be kept at NMTI.

So why were they fired? Chair Valentino and a majority of the trustees claimed the employees under NMTI were now civil service employees and must "re-apply" for their old jobs, despite the fact that they were the ones responsible for NMTI's success and the more than \$17 million in federal funding they were able to secure. Chair Valentino and the trustees cited an opinion from the Office of the Attorney General. Unfortunately, the Office of the Attorney General issued two opinions, which conflicted with each other.

What Chair Valentino and the trustees failed to do was to simply look at CNMI case law and a CNMI Supreme Court ruling.

Under Northern Marianas College v. Civil Service Commission, 2007 MP 8, an NMC employee was terminated from his job and he appealed to the Civil Service Commission. The CSC and NMC went to battle in the Superior Court, and CSC claimed they had jurisdiction with regard to NMC employees.

"After multiple hearings and procedural battles in the Superior Court, the Supreme Court ultimately held that NMC is a fully autonomous agency under the CNMI Constitution, and is thus exempted from the civil service system. The Court reasoned that the CNMI Constitution granted NMC the power to

By **EDWIN K. PROPST**
Special to the Saipan Tribune



Ed Propst is a member of the CNMI House of Representatives of the 22nd Legislature.

fully control the administration of its affairs, and that NMC was empowered to make its own employee termination decisions without the CSC's review. Thus, the Court held that NMC's decisions are not appealable to the CSC." (The Northern Mariana Islands Judiciary: A Historical Overview, page 58).

This was a CNMI Supreme Court ruling, in which the high court recognized and proclaimed NMC's full autonomy and ability to hire and fire its employees, and that the CSC could not interfere with their decisions.

So what is the difference between NMTI and NMC? If NMTI is fully autonomous just as NMC is, why must NMTI go through the Civil Service Commission?

The truth is, it is insulting that these hardworking, amazing employees and instructors suddenly must apply for their "old" jobs. They are credentialed, have institutional knowledge, and were an asset to NMTI, yet they are being treated like cattle.

If anything, McPhetres and NMTI employees are victims of their own success. They were the ones responsible for bringing in \$17 million in federal funding, and now they will have no place in seeing how it will be spent.

It is no secret that one of NMTI's most valuable employees, Ross Manglona, was also a critic of the Torres administration. Should his political views affect his employment? Only in a banana republic. Sadly, this is what the CNMI is becoming.

In its quest to wipe the slate clean and establish a first rate vocational/technical institution, one must ask, are the board of trustees throwing the baby out with the bath water?

This fairy tale is far from over. These employees have the option to sue for their old jobs back, but at what cost? At their own personal expense? How can they afford an attorney right now, given the fact they are no longer gainfully employed? Do the NMTI trustees consider the fact that these employees can no longer feed and provide for their families?

The oft-used fairy tale ending, "And they lived happily ever after," will have to be postponed for now. It is up to the good people of the CNMI to determine their own ending to this and many other tales.

Un dangkulu na si yu'us ma'ase, ghilissow, salamat po, thank you CEO Agnes McPhetres, Ross Manglona, Frank Rabauliman, and all NMTI staff and instructors for your vision, your hard work, your perseverance, and grit. You are the heroes in my book.

FIGHT

From Page 8

we once considered cancer untreatable as well, and most early attempts to treat it were small, palliative and only marginally effective against what felt like an incurable problem. The key is that scientists and doctors didn't stop there.

When dealing with a public health crisis on the scale of American gun violence, no measure is too modest.

While speaking at the funeral of Xiaojie Tan—who died in the March 16 shootings—Mike Webb, her ex-husband, said that her family in China felt that America, with its culture of fetishizing gun ownership over human safety, was simply not safe. "What kind of example are we setting for the rest of the world?" he lamented. "Must our flags always fly at half-mast?"

In the wake of the tragedy in Atlanta, the president and vice president promised to take bold actions. And sometimes the boldest move, especially when fighting an epidemic seemingly without end, is simply understanding that effective interventions involve taking one small step at a time.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Sen. Hofschneider, why are you doing this?

Article 12 is one of the few remaining examples of native/indigenous land autonomy in the United States. This unique position should not be given or stripped away so hastily and irresponsibly. Senate Legislative Initiative 22-01 is a six-page document that threatens to destroy over 40 years of historical indigenous land protection rights and is the last measure of identity distinguishing those of Northern Marianas descent from the rest of the nation.

The CNMI does not have to look far into the past to realize how negatively this will play out for future generations of NMDs. The historical events that stripped Native Hawaiians of their land autonomy are felt throughout the Hawaiian Islands until now and Native Hawaiians are priced out of the ancestral homeland that bears their name. Ask any native Hawaiian or Native American, and they will say their land was stolen and sold to the highest bidder, without their input in its development or use. In my opinion, exercising one's real property rights in the CNMI is a facade. SLI-22-01 invites struggling NMD families to sell their properties for pennies on the dollar without realizing the true nature of losing a precious resource that cannot be recreated or replaced with something else in the United States. Why would I ever want to sell something my family has held for generations for a life with more bills to pay in the form of land/property taxes, mortgages, land fees, etc.?

Additionally, SLI-22-01 may potentially open the doors to further hardships like property taxes, which the CNMI does not practice, and gentrification, where struggling communities or families are bought and pushed out, paving the road only for those who can afford to live in the CNMI. And lastly,

the potential risk of federalization of all land in the CNMI. Why is this even a topic of conversation? History has many examples we can learn from, where the negatives always outweigh any form of economic security in the long run, impacting indigenous communities along the way.






Article 12 should be an opportunity for us to use NMI land responsibly for future generations of NMDs and CNMI residents who call the Marianas home. We have had past opportunities and terrible investments in industries that fundamentally destroy our natural resources and displace families. So why add more fuel to the fire? There are other avenues toward economic success, many of which do not require selling out to the highest bidder. We should learn from the examples of our Pacific neighbors who are doing well economically, like Palau, who did not sell out to the highest bidder and manage their land and ocean resources for the benefit of their communities and not a select few.

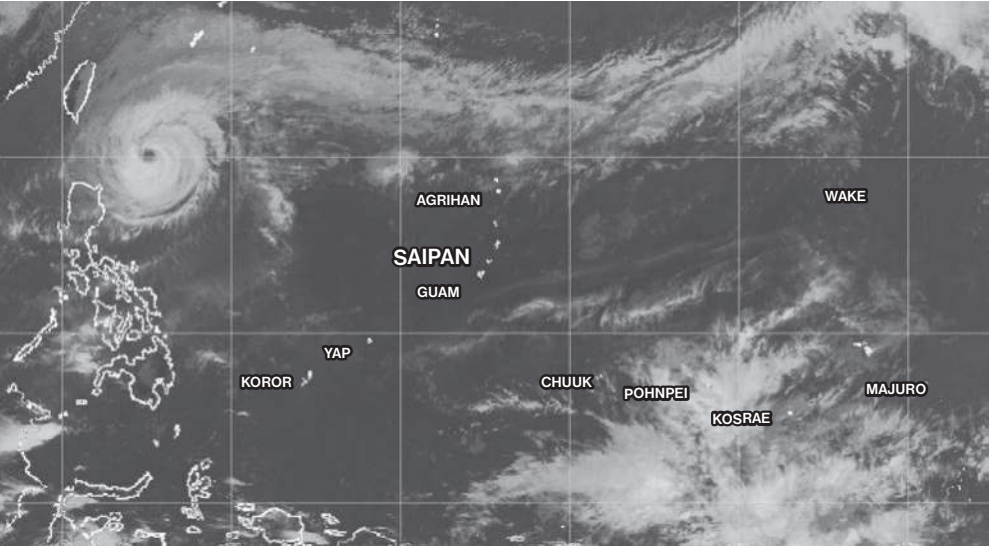
Mr. Hofschneider, your proposal of SLI-22-01 is a disservice to all NMDs and CNMI residents who recognize the land the Legislature sits on is first and foremost NMD land. We should not throw away the CNMI Constitution's protective land provisions of Article 12 on the unguaranteed promise of economic prosperity. I encourage all NMDs, residents, and non-residents of the CNMI supporting SLI-22-01 to look very hard at how history has treated the indigenous communities across our nation, most recently in Guam. These communities have lost or sold their land to the highest bidder, losing their land autonomy altogether, barely improving their situation chasing the "American Dream." The CNMI should not repeat the history of Native Hawaiians, Native Americans, and other indigenous communities, but we should learn from their past, not invite its destruction.

For all NMDs, we are Chamorros and Carolinians first before anything else. Our leaders of the past and writers of the CNMI Constitution had the foresight to recognize how vital land in the CNMI is and its critical role in ensuring that we are never again without a home we cannot call our own.

Johnny Tudela Aldan, Jr.
As Matuis (sent via email)

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY	
									
Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers.		Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers.		Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers.	
86°	76°	86°	76°	86°	76°	86°	76°	86°	76°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 7:32 AM, THURSDAY, APRIL 22, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A few clouds and showers are seen across the region along with gentle northeast winds. A stationary front to the north continues to sag southward, and is now beginning to drop south of 20N. Buoys show a continuing downward trend in seas, now ranging between 6 and 7 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.


- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20



seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235.3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website: www.saipantribune.com.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°	
Palau	Partly Cloudy	84° / 77°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	84° / 79°	
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	84° / 79°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:58 AM	6:32 PM
Saturday	5:57 AM	6:33 PM
Sunday	5:56 AM	6:33 PM
Monday	5:56 AM	6:33 PM
Tuesday	5:55 AM	6:33 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	2:53 AM	2:47 PM
Saturday	-	3:38 AM	3:45 PM
Sunday	-	4:21 AM	4:43 PM
Monday	-	5:05 AM	5:42 PM
Tuesday	-	5:50 AM	6:44 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	66° / 55°	
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	72° / 48°	
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	81° / 77°	
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	85° / 73°	
London	Showers	57° / 39°	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	77° / 59°	
Manila	Mostly Sunny	93° / 79°	
Melbourne	Rain	64° / 48°	
Miami	Thunderstorms	85° / 67°	
New York	Partly Cloudy	64° / 48°	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	72° / 57°	
Paris	Partly Cloudy	66° / 43°	
Pusan	Cloudy	66° / 54°	
Rome	Mostly Sunny	70° / 52°	
Salem	Partly Cloudy	77° / 53°	
San Francisco	Windy	69° / 37°	
Seoul	Rain	69° / 37°	
Tokyo	Windy	66° / 59°	
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	67° / 50°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
5:14 AM	High Tide	1.89	
11:08 AM	Low Tide	1.03	
4:09 PM	High Tide	1.66	
10:56 PM	Low Tide	0.22	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 29, 2021


DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	6:30am	7:10am	1, 4, 5, 6	UA174	4:50am	5:31am	1, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	6:30am	8:50pm	5 via Guam	UA184/174	9:50pm	5:31am+1	5 via Guam
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
UA183	7:05pm	8:50pm	5	UA184	9:50pm	3:45am+1	5
UA183	7:15pm	9:10pm	1, 3,	UA184	10:25pm	4:10am+1	1, 3

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 9, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA				1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sat	1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sun	1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sat	1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sun	1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM				1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
GUAM TO ROTA				2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily				
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily				
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily				
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily				
1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable				




Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514

Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net



PUBLIC NOTICE

This Notice is paid by NMHC with HUD funds.

**NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST A RELEASE OF FUNDS**

Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation
Saipan, MP 96950 | Tel: (670) 234-9447/6866

This notice shall satisfy the above-cited two separate but related procedural notification requirements.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or after May 10, 2021, the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Washington D.C., for the release of Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, 2019 P.L. 116-20, enacted on January 27, 2020, announced via Federal Register Notice, to undertake the following activity and purposes in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

Project/Activity Type	Purpose	Location	Total Project Cost
Apengahg St. and Ghilis St. Road and Drainage Improvement Project- CDBG-DR Infrastructure Projects	Road and Drainage Improvement Project	San Jose, Saipan	Approximately \$650,000.00

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has determined that the above-listed projects will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) and is ready for public viewing on the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) website at www.nmhcgov.net or www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com; or you may visit the on file at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan or NMHC CDBG-DR Office in Beach Road Chalan Laulau, Saipan during regular work hours, Monday through Friday except CNMI Holidays, from 7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on the project may submit written comments to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation. You may submit comments from the following options: Via mail to P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; Direct delivery to the central office in Garapan, Saipan or drop-box located in front of the building; and Via email at officemanager@nmhcgov.net. All comments received by May 10, 2021, 4:30 p.m., will be considered by the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Commentors should specify which part of this Notice they are addressing.


RELEASE OF FUNDS

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands certifies to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Washington D.C. that the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Governor Ralph DLG. Torres consent to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process, and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Washington D.C. acceptance of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and related laws and authorities, and allows the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands to use Program Funds.

OBJECTION TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Washington D.C. will accept objections to its release of funds and the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands certification for a period of fifteen days following anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if it is on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands; (b) the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient has incurred cost not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of the release of funds by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures of 24 CFR Part 58 and shall be addressed to Ms. Tennille Smith Parker, DRSI Division Director, HUD, via email at Tennille.S.Parker@hud.gov ; Tel: (202)402-4649. Potential objectors should contact the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

/s/ **Ralph DLG Torres**
Governor, CNMI




Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

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Project/Activity Type	Purpose	Location	Total Project Cost
Northern Marianas College Construction of 2 storey concrete buildings for classrooms and Laboratories for the Northern Marianas College (NMC)	Reconstruction of classrooms and laboratories that were damaged by Super Typhoon Yutu.	Finasisu, Saipan	\$14,678,103.00

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has determined that the above-listed projects will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) and is ready for public viewing on the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) website at www.nmhcgov.net or www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com; or you may visit the on file at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan or NMHC CDBG-DR Office in Beach Road Chalan Laulau, Saipan during regular work hours, Monday through Friday except CNMI Holidays, from 7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

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/s/ **Ralph DLG Torres**
Governor, CNMI



NMI Museum UPDATES

The NMI Museum of History and Culture is an independent program from the Office of the Governor.

Educational Tax Credit and Donations

Public Law 10-328 allows businesses and individuals alike to donate up to \$5000 to the NMI Museum of History and Culture. The NMI Museum depends on any donations that is given by businesses and individuals. Given the economic downturn as a result of the pandemic, this is the timer where I am appealing to businesses to contribute their tax payments towards the Educational Tax Credit for the NMI Museum. We want to personally thank the businesses and individuals that have pledge their payments to the NMI Museum.



Archie Ajoste giving students info on historical artifacts in the NMI Museum during this Covid 19 pandemic.

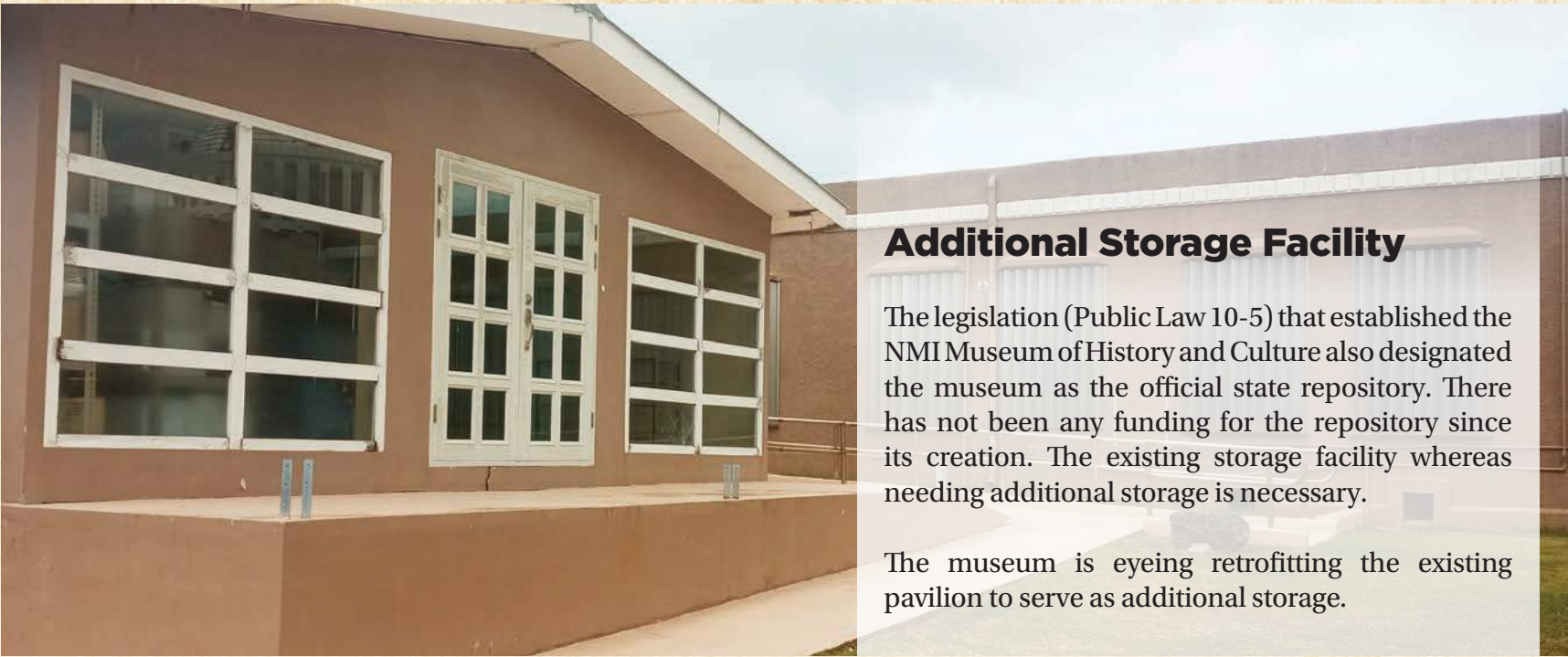


The 5-year Maintenance on NMI Museum Roof Completed

The 5-year maintenance on the NMI Museums roof has been completed. Mr. Macaranas and I, opted for a more durable and thicker protective finish coating with a longer warranty. The protective coating will prevent leaks from occurring and provide longevity to the museums roof. Maintenance on our building, roof, artifacts have always been a top priority.



Photos of maintenance on Museum roof with thicker protective finish



Additional Storage Facility

The legislation (Public Law 10-5) that established the NMI Museum of History and Culture also designated the museum as the official state repository. There has not been any funding for the repository since its creation. The existing storage facility whereas needing additional storage is necessary.

The museum is eyeing retrofitting the existing pavilion to serve as additional storage.

Cultural Huts

The cultural huts that was proposed on our museum grounds will proceed. The huts will be built on top of the concrete slabs and be utilized for museum events or activities that support increasing traffic to the NMI Museum. We will be reaching out to the vendors of the Sabalu Market, and partner with DCCA Arts Council, Office of Aging, Carolinian and Indigenous Affairs once the huts are completed.

Old Japanese laboratory to be repurposed as a coffee shop



The old Japanese Laboratory being maintained to be utilized as a coffee shop



Back of museum, front, and parking of sidewalks with anti skid coating

Museums Walkway gets uplift

The NMI Museums walkway received an uplift and upgrade that enhanced the curb appeal. The walkway was water blasted and all cracks were repaired before receiving a primer and tan colored antiskid coating.



Museum Entrance welcomes a new anti skid coating on side walks



All Museum staff received COVID-19 vaccination.

THE NMI MUSEUM IS OPEN:

Monday to Friday: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Telephone No.: 664-2160



Enhanced outdoor lighting.

The NMI Museum has increased its outdoor LED lighting for safety and security.

CHCC conducts village outreaches for COVID-19 vaccinations

To further expand COVID-19 vaccine availability, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force hosted the first village outreach vaccination event last Saturday, April 17, 2021, at the San Antonio

Systems of Care facility next to the basketball court.

CHCC administered 68 Moderna vaccines to first-dose recipients who registered on site, as well as through the CHCC Call Center at (670) 682-SHOT.



Members of the Vaccination Team and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Call Center staff from IT&E set up and prepare for a day of COVID-19 vaccination operations at the Systems of Care facility in San Antonio, Saipan.

As of April 20, 2021, the CNMI has fully vaccinated 16,253 eligible persons. CHCC and the Governor's

COVID-19 Task Force will be hosting the next village outreach this Saturday, April 24, from 8am to noon, at the Kag-

man Community Center, next to the fire station. CHCC aims to vaccinate 200 individuals with the Moderna vaccine. In-

dividuals are highly encouraged to pre-register online at vaccinatecnmi.com, call the CHCC Call Center at (670) 682-SHOT/7468, or by registering in person at the CHCC Call Center in IT&E Chalan Laulau.

CHCC has expanded the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine availability to 16- and 17-year-olds on Rota and Tinian. All necessary forms and information are available at vaccinatecnmi.com. Parents must register for their children, as well as accompany them during the vaccination process.

CHCC and Governor's Covid-19 Task Force will be announcing future village outreach events. For more information visit vaccinatecnmi.com. (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB 20-: ITB21-DPS-078
SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 10, 2020 10:30 A.M.

“(A) PURCHASE OF TWENTY (20) CLASS “I” SPORT UTILITY VEHICLES
(B) PURCHASE OF FIVE (5) CLASS “F” 4WD/FOUR (4) FULL DOORS
PICK UP TRUCK FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ROBERT A. GUERRERO
 COMMISSIONER, DPS

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
 ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT NO. 21-02
United States District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands
Student Intern (part-time, one-year term, paid internship)
 Location: SAIPAN, Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI)
 Pay grade: CL-22 Step 1 = \$15.26/hour (includes COLA)
 Opening Date: April 20, 2021 • Applications received by April 30, 2021 will be given priority.

Position Overview:

The United States District Court is accepting applications for a one-year part-time student internship as part of the United States Courts Model Intern Diversity Program, to expose, develop and place talented, underserved youth in the courts and prepare them for future permanent employment opportunities while training them to be champions of diversity and inclusion. This year-long internship is available to an undergraduate college student. The Student Intern will work directly with the Chief Judge, the Magistrate Judge/Clerk of Court, and other court-system professionals performing or assisting in judicial and administrative functions within the federal judiciary. Complete position description is available at <https://www.nmid.uscourts.gov>

Position Duties and Responsibilities:

- Observing a wide variety of court proceedings in civil, criminal, and bankruptcy matters.
- Shadowing judicial officers, judicial chambers personnel, clerk's office personnel, and other court-system professionals to develop an understanding of the federal judiciary.
- Assisting judicial, professional, and/or administrative staff with jury matters and special events, such as naturalization ceremonies, and community outreach events.
- Assisting in collecting, organizing, and summarizing statistical, accounting, or mathematical data on case processing, budgetary, workload, and other court-related issues to support judicial, professional, and/or administrative staff.
- Assisting with maintaining, organizing and processing case documents, including legal pleadings and court orders to provide a complete account of active court cases.
- Performing basic legal and other research.
- Performing other duties as assigned.

Minimum Qualifications and Preferred Qualifications:

Candidates must be enrolled full-time as a Fall 2021 junior or senior year in a four-year college degree program, and have strong academic achievement, good character, self-sufficiency under challenging circumstances, solid organizational and planning skills, and demonstrate an appreciation for the value of diversity and inclusion in the workplace. Additional preference will be afforded to first generation college students.

Citizenship Requirement:

Applicants must be a U.S. citizen or eligible to work in the U.S.

Notice to Applicants:

Excepted service appointments are "at will" and may be terminated by either the court or the employee at any time for any reason. Selectees are hired provisionally pending results of a criminal background check. Employees are subject to the Judicial Code of Conduct. Direct deposit of pay is required.

Application Procedure:

Each applicant is required to submit a Cover Letter, Resume, and an AO-78 application form. AO-78 forms are on the Internet at: <https://www.nmid.uscourts.gov> or may be picked up at the U.S. District Court. Position is open until filled; applications received by April 30, 2021 will be given priority.

We prefer you to email signed applications to:
 HR@nmid.uscourts.gov

Or, you may deliver signed applications to:
 Clerk of Court
 U.S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands
 P.O. Box 500687, Saipan MP 96950
 (Located on Gualo Rai Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan.)

The United States District Court is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands CRIMINAL JUSTICE PLANNING AGENCY Criminal Justice Statistical Analysis Center



Public Service Announcement – Availability of Criminal Justice Grants

The Criminal Justice Planning Agency (CJPA) is announcing the availability of federal funds from the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). These Grant Program include the Victims of Crimes Act (VOCA), the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) grant program and the Justice Assistance Grant Program (JAG). A brief description and amounts available for each award under individual programs are listed below. Please visit our Office on Capitol Hill, building 1315 for a more detailed explanation on eligibility requirements, program purpose areas and the new application form. **All applicants must have a DUNS number and nonprofit agencies must have a 501 (c) (3) Federal Tax Exemption.**

Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) FY2020: \$168,531.00

The Available funds can be implemented in the following purpose areas: Law Enforcement program, Prosecution and Court Programs, Prevention and Education programs, Corrections and community corrections programs, Drug treatment and enforcement programs. Planning, evaluation, and technology improvement programs. Crime victim and witness program (other than compensation).

Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), Assistance Formula Program: FY2020: \$432,981.00

- To comply with VOCA guidelines, funds made available through VOCA assistance program is intended for agencies that provide direct service to victims of crime. Funds under this program is designed to provide direct services to all victims of child abuse, domestic violence, and sexual assaults.
- All applicants must show in their application how they will provide direct services to one or more of the crime victims mentioned above.
- New applicants must also show on their application that they have a history of providing direct services to crime victims and have other sources of funding to support the program to ensure continuity of services to victims.

Amounts Available:

Victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Child Abuse: \$383,248.00
 Underserved Crime Victims: \$49,732.00

STOP Violence Against Women Act Formula Grant Program (VAWA) FY2020: \$556,696.00

STOP-VAWA grant programs provide assistance for victims through protection and services that they need to pursue safe and healthy lives, while simultaneously enabling communities to hold offenders accountable for their violence. In accordance with the STOP program requirements "CNMI Three Year Implementation Plan", STOP-VAWA grant funds are made available to support law enforcement, prosecution, victim services, and the Superior Court in the CNMI.

Allotted agencies mentioned below, **must** submit a complete application of how available funds will be used, including an implementation plan of how goals, objectives and activities will help meet the predicted outcomes of their respective programs. In accordance with the CNMI Implementation Plan, these categories and/or agencies are allotted at least the following amounts based on the requirements percentages set by VAWA:

- **Non Profit, Non-Governmental Victim Services:** of which at least 10% is to be distributed to culturally-specific community based organizations; Victim Services = \$105,076.00; Culturally Specific Services = \$18,566.00; programs that meaningfully address Sexual Assault Purpose only = \$43,376.00. Total for Victim Services = \$167,008.00.
- **Law Enforcement** \$102,912.00; programs that meaningfully address Sexual Assault Purpose only = \$36,262.00. Total for law Enforcement: \$139,174.00
- **Prosecution** \$102,912.00; Programs that meaningfully address Sexual Assault Purpose only = \$36,262.00. Total for Prosecution \$139,174.00.
- **Courts** \$20,024.00; programs that meaningfully address Sexual Assault Purpose only = \$7,809.00. Total for Court \$27,833.00.
- **Discretionary;** may be spent at the discretion of the state/territory to address statutory program areas, \$83,504.00

Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP) FY2020: \$59,460.00

The Sexual Assault Service Program (SASP), created by the Violence Against Women Act of 2005, is the first federal funding stream solely dedicated to the provision of direct intervention and related assistance for victims of sexual assault. Overall, the purpose of SASP is to provide intervention, advocacy, accompaniment, support services, and related assistance for adult, youth, and child victims of sexual assault, family and household members of victims, and those collaterally affected by the sexual assault.

This grant is for Non Profit agencies that provide sexual assault services only.

The available funds will be awarded by the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Council for the Improvement of the Criminal Justice System (CJPA Supervisory Council) through a sub-grant review process and plan consistent with the project description outlined in the program applications and accompanying strategies for the aforementioned DOJ programs. Projects funded under these programs will be monitored and administered by the Criminal Justice Planning Agency. Dates for the award process will be announced at a later date.

All completed applications and required documents must be submitted to CJPA no later than 4:30 p.m. Friday, May 14, 2021.
No application will be accepted after the deadline.

For Tinian and Rota Applications Only:

Completed applications submitted from Rota and Tinian will be accepted by emailing ztainanao.cjpa@gmail.com, including a "must" be submitted hardcopy via air waybill with the deadline said above stamped or recorded on the "executed on date and time" section of the air waybill. Incomplete application(s) sent in by fax will not be accepted.

For more information and for interested applicants, please contact CJPA at 664-4550/4551/4554/4556/4558 or stop by the Office on Capitol Hill (Building #1315). Please indicate and specify which grant and year you are applying for on the application. If necessary, please call the CJPA Office at 664-4550.

Indirect Cost will be assessed on government entities.

/s/ Hon. Alejandro C. Castro
 Chairman, Supervisory Council

/s/ Zerlyn A. Taimanao
 Executive Director, CJPA

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Emergency water service interruptions

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the public that there will be an emergency water service interruption on April 23, 2021, from 8am to April 24, 2021, at 6am, for customers in the following areas: Upper Navy Hill, Chaim Galaide, China Town, Upper MIHA, and As Falape.

The emergency water service interruption is due to the isolation of a water transmission main for Water Operators to perform an emergency leak repair on an existing 6-inch waterline in Sadog Tasi, which provides water service to the Calhoun water tanks. Water service to the affected areas will resume on Saturday, April 24, 2021, to allow time for the Calhoun water tanks to fill up overnight.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Hotline at 236-4333 or monitor

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



Happy birthday greetings go out to Mama Janet, who is celebrating her special day today! We love and care for you, always. Wishing you more birthdays to come! Greetings come from your husband, Rick, daughter, Elkee Fumiku Babauta, and Nanay Irene.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

our Facebook page for the latest updates. (PR)

MCS Theatre Club presents Shakespeare's As You Like It

As part of the ongoing celebration of its 25th anniversary, Mount Carmel School's Theatre Club presents its next theatrical production, an adaptation of William Shakespeare's classic comedy *As You Like It* on campus on April 30 and May 1 starting at 7pm each night.

Tickets are \$25 for front row premium seats and \$10 for general admission. Tickets can

be purchased at Herman's Modern Bakery, Java Joe's Kagman Mobil, Naked Fish Bar & Grill, Puerto Rico Shell, Tribe Marianas, and the school's business office. To comply with COVID-19 mitigation guidelines, tickets are limited and are available only on a first-come, first-served basis.

Funding for this production is provided by the CNMI CARES Relief Fund for Organizations and supported by the National Endowment for the Arts through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act of 2020. (PR)

5.0-magnitude earthquake in Marianas

At 6:45am on April 21, 2021, a report of a 5.0-magnitude earthquake occurred 17.575°N 147.375°E in the Mariana Islands region. Currently, there are no tsunami warnings or advisories that were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 237-8000. (PR)

CHamoru commission meeting set

The *Kumisión i Fino' CHam-*

oru yan i Fina'ná'guen i Historia yan i Lina'la' i Taotao Tāno' (Commission on CHamoru Language and the Teaching of the History and Culture of the Indigenous People of Guam) will hold its second April monthly virtual meeting on April 29, 2021, Thursday from 12:30pm to 3:30pm on a Zoom Link. Email Kumision secretary Roland R. Blas at (Roland.Blas@kfchamoru.guam.gov) and/or (rolandblas1973@gmail.com) for Zoom Link Information, special accommodations, and agenda. (PR)



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: DPW21-ITB-024
FHWA PROJECT NO. TQ-THS-Q202 (301)

SUBMISSION DATE: May 25, 2021 TIME: 10:00 A.M

"Route 202, Hazard Elimination Project, Tinian"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The project package will be available on or after April 23, 2021 at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **May 11, 2021**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the **Tinian Mayor Office, Tinian**. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **May 18, 2021** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES

DELTA MANAGEMENT CORPORATION (SAIPAN)

Has an opening for a

Full Time Accounting Clerk/Auditor

CORE RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Auditing of daily sales reports for service stations.
- Accurately perform sales summary reports and fuel reconciliation.
- Auditing of fleet cards and credit card transactions.
- Performing Accounts Payable duties
- Must meet daily, weekly, and monthly reporting deadlines

CORE QUALIFICATIONS:

- Accounting and audit experience with understanding of basic accounting controls and principles.
- Must be self-motivated, be able to work in fast paced environment in a team environment.
- Experience and understanding of QuickBooks, Excel and Word.
- 2 years on island work experience and on island reference & police clearance required.
- Must be eligible to work in the US, US citizen, Green Card, other. CW-1 not accepted.

E-mail resume to: islandtrainingsolutions@gmail.com and
deltaspn@pticom.com.



DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

P. O. Box 501304, Saipan MP 96950 | Gualo Rai Center, Saipan
TEL. NO. 664-8300 | FAX NO. 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp



NOTICE OF APPLICATION
As of April 23, 2021

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Dr. Lyza Johnston dba Applied Marine Sciences	03/22/2021 SLR-2021-023	Sowing the seeds of success: Testing novel approaches to Improve efficiency of coral reef Restoration using sexually propagated corals	Saipan Lagoon	Lagoon & Reef	Approved* 04/12/2021
2. Li Hang Wang	03/31/2021 SS-2021-024	Snow White Castle	Garapan, Saipan	Shoreline	Approved* 04/13/2021
3. Department of Public Works	02/24/2021 SMS-2000-X-142-A1	Route 35 (Tun Herman Pan Road) Road Improvements	Dandan, Saipan	Major Siting	Withdrawn 04/15/2021
4. Rubin Corporation	04/08/2021 RLR-2018-X-0608-R4	SCUBA Diving Operations	Rota Lagoon	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 04/08/2021
5. Office of the Mayor, Municipality of Tinian & Aguiguan	04/13/2021 TMS-2021-025	Invasive Ungulate with Plant Management	Eskuela, Aguiguan	Major Siting	Under Review*
6. Saipan Crewboats, Inc.	04/16/2021 SPlm-2021-026	Drydock	Lowerbase, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	Approved* 04/21/2021

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: 234-7859 | Fax: 234-5750
Attorney for Plaintiff Bernadita Cabrera Palacios

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BERNADITA)
CABRERA PALACIOS,) Civil Action
Plaintiff,) No. 21-0003
vs.)
HONG DA DEVELOPMENT) AMENDED
CORPORATION,) SUMMONS BY
Defendant.) PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT, HONG DA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION:

You have been made a Defendant in the suit filed in this Commonwealth Superior Court by Plaintiff Bernadita Cabrera Palacios, on her COMPLAINT FOR RECOVERY OF POSSESSION AND DAMAGES PURSUANT TO THE HOLDOVER TENANCY ACT.

You may file an answer you wish to make to the Complaint filed against you in this action within **Twenty-One (21) Days** after the date of the last publication of this Summons. You must deliver or mail a copy of your answer to **Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya), P.O. Box 503758 CK, Saipan, MP 96950**, or as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Court of the above-entitled Court for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Office of the Clerk of Court, CNMI SUPERIOR COURT, 1st Floor, Guma' Hustisia, Limwal Aweewe, House of Justice, Susupe Village, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan MP 96950-0307. It may be prepared and signed for you by your Attorney and sent to the Clerk of Court by messenger or by mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgement by default pursuant to the court rules of the above-entitled Court may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

Dated this 26th day of March, 2021.

/s/
Clerk of Court

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff, MPLT

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
FOR THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MARIANAS PUBLIC
LAND TRUST,

Plaintiff,

vs.

GEORGE R. RABAULIMAN,

Defendant.

Civil Action
No. 16-0222

NOTICE OF
AUCTION and
JUDICIAL SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of the Order Approving Judicial Sale of Mortgaged Property entered in the above titled action on March 26, 2021, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due to Plaintiff Marianas Public Land Trust from George R. Rabauliman, the undersigned counsel or his designee will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on **June 24, 2021, at 10:00 A.M., at the Marianas Public Land Trust Conference Room in Capital Hill, Saipan**, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit:

Lot/Tract No. 011 G 413, containing an area of 858 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 011 G 07, the original of which was recorded December 16, 1993 as Document No. 93-4415 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan, CNMI.

Terms and Conditions of Sale

1. **Public Sale:** The auction shall be open to the general public.
2. **With Reserve:** The auction sale shall be held with reserve.
3. **Rights and duties of Auctioneer:** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
 - a. To withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or bid for such property is accepted;
 - b. to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
 - c. to reject any and all bids.
4. **Bids:** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, Email: rttlaw@pticom.com and rttlaw@gmail.com.
5. **Deposit and Payment:** A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, money order, or cashier's check. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the property, which will revert to the Marianas Public Land Trust.
6. **Change of Terms:** Auctioneer and the Marianas Public Land Trust reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by the constructive notice.
7. **Inspection and No Warranty:** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 08th day of April 2021.

/s/
ROBERT T. TORRES, F0197
Auctioneer

Business

FDA inspection finds problems at factory making J&J vaccine

The Baltimore factory hired to help make Johnson & Johnson's COVID-19 vaccine was dirty, didn't follow proper manufacturing procedures and had poorly trained staff, resulting in contamination of material going into a batch of shots, U.S. regulators said Wednesday.

The Food and Drug Administration released a statement and a 13-page report detailing findings from its just-completed inspection of the idled Emergent BioSciences factory.

Agency inspectors said a batch of bulk drug substance for J&J's single-shot vaccine was contaminated with material used to make COVID-19 vaccines for another Emergent client, AstraZeneca. The batch, reportedly enough to make about 15 million J&J vaccine doses, had to be thrown out.

Other problems cited in the inspection report included peeling paint, black and brown residue on factory floors and walls, inadequate cleaning and employees not following procedures to prevent contamination between vaccine batches and ingredients.

Nothing made at the factory for J&J has been distributed, the FDA noted. The nearly 8 million doses of J&J vaccine given in the U.S. came from Europe.



In this Wednesday, March 3, 2021 file photo, a pharmacist holds a vial of the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine at a hospital in Bay Shore, N.Y. Janssen Pharmaceuticals is a division of Johnson & Johnson.

Both Emergent and Johnson & Johnson said Wednesday that they are working to fix the problems as quickly as possible.

After quality problems surfaced late last month, J&J took control of the factory. The Biden administration now is working to move AstraZeneca vaccine manufacturing to another factory. AstraZeneca has yet to seek emergency authorization for use of its vaccine in the U.S.

The Baltimore factory halted all production late last week at the FDA's request. The agency hasn't given emergency approval to the factory, which is needed before any vaccine material made there can be distributed.

All the bulk vaccine sub-

stance inside Emergent's factory, plus early batches made there and then put in vials and packaged by other J&J contractors, are being stored and will undergo additional testing by the FDA, the agency said.

"We are doing everything we can to ensure that the COVID-19 vaccines that are given to the people of this nation have met the agency's high standards for quality, safety and effectiveness," the FDA said.

At the moment, use of the J&J vaccine is on hold in the U.S. as government health officials investigate its possible connection to very rare blood clots. Their decision on whether to allow its use to resume could come Friday.

Biz scramble for help as job openings go unfilled

NEW YORK (AP)—It looks like something to celebrate: small businesses posting "Help Wanted" signs as the economy edges toward normalcy. Instead, businesses are having trouble filling the jobs, which in turn hurts their ability to keep up with demand for their products or services.

Owners say that some would-be workers are worried about catching COVID-19 or prefer to live off unemployment benefits that are significantly higher amid the pandemic. Child care is another issue—parents aren't able to work when they need to tend to or home-school their children. For some people, a combination of factors go into their decision not to seek work.

When Steve Klatt and Brandon Lapp set up interviews for their restaurant and food truck business, they're lucky if one out of 10 or 15 applicants comes in.

"The people who do show up, all assume their unemployment is running out," says

Klatt, whose business, Braised in the South, is located in Johns Island, South Carolina. The maximum weekly unemployment benefits in the state are \$626 including \$300 in federal coronavirus relief payments; in some states, maximum unemployment is over \$700 a week.

Klatt and Lapp need 20 people to run the business well but have only five staffers. Former chefs, the owners and their wives are working in the kitchen and on the truck to keep things running. Klatt and Lapp recently decided to curtail their Sunday hours and close Mondays to give everyone a break.

"The hit to the bottom line will be noticeable, but it's not worth burning out the few awesome people we do have working for us," Klatt says.

Businesses of all sizes are struggling with hiring even with millions of Americans unemployed and as increasing numbers of people get vaccinated and look forward to

a more normal life. A Census survey taken in late March shows that 6.3 million didn't seek work because they had to care for a child, and 4.1 million said they feared contracting or spreading the virus.

But smaller companies that often can't offer pay and benefits as generous as larger companies have a tougher time.

"A shortage of talent is nothing new for small businesses, but the circumstances surrounding this shortage are entirely different," says Jill Chapman, a consultant with Insuperity, a human resources provider.

The National Federation of Independent Business found in a March survey of its own members that 42% had job openings they couldn't fill. Owners cited higher unemployment benefits as one factor. And a study released last month by the National Bureau of Economic Research found that a 10% increase in unemployment benefits during the pandemic led to a 3.6% drop in job applications.

Nation

Grim list of deaths at hands of cops still up

Just as the guilty verdict was about to be read in the trial of former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin, police in Ohio shot and killed a Black teenager in broad daylight during a confrontation.

The shooting of Ma'Khia Bryant, 16, who was swinging a knife during a fight with another person in Columbus, is in some ways more representative of how Black and other people of color are killed during police encounters than the death of George Floyd, pinned to the ground by Chauvin and captured on video for all the world to see.

Unlike Chauvin's case, many killings by police involve a decision to shoot in a heated moment and are notoriously difficult to prosecute even when they spark grief and outrage. Juries have tended to give officers the benefit of the doubt when they claim to have acted in a life-or-death situation.

While Tuesday's conviction was hailed as a sign of progress in the fight for equal justice, it still leaves unanswered difficult questions about law enforcement's use of force and systemic racism in policing. The verdict in



Law enforcement investigate the scene of a shooting, Wednesday, April 21, 2021 in Elizabeth City, N.C.

the Chauvin case might not be quickly repeated, even as the list of those killed at the hands of police grows.

"This was something unique. The world saw what happened," said Salt Lake County District Attorney Sim Gill, who has examined over 100 use-of-force cases there. To have video, witnesses, forensic evidence and multiple police officers testify against one of their own is unique and "demonstrates how high the bar has to be in order to actually have that kind of accountability," he said.

Convictions like Chauvin's are extraordinarily rare. Out of the thousands of deadly police shootings in the U.S.

since 2005, fewer than 140 officers have been charged and just seven convicted of murder, according to data maintained by Phil Stinson, a criminologist at Bowling Green State University.

"This is a success, but there are so many more unjust murders that still need reckoning, that we still need to address," said Princess Blanding, a Virginia gubernatorial candidate whose brother was killed by Richmond police. Marcus-David Peters, who was Black, was fatally shot by a Black police officer during a mental health crisis after he ran naked onto an interstate highway and charged at the officer.



ACROSS THE NATION

Officials: Biden preparing to recognize Armenian genocide

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Joe Biden is preparing to formally acknowledge that the systematic killing and deportation of hundreds of thousands of Armenians by the Ottoman Empire in modern-day Turkey more than a century ago was genocide, according to U.S. officials. The anticipated move—something Biden had pledged to do as a candidate—could further complicate an already tense relationship with Turkish leader Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Administration officials had not informed Turkey as of Wednesday, and Biden could still change his mind, according to one official. The U.S. officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal deliberations. Lawmakers and Armenian-American activists are lobbying Biden to make the announcement on or before Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day, which will be marked on Saturday.

Sheriff: Deputy fatally shot Black man while serving warrant

ELIZABETH CITY, N.C. (AP)—A North Carolina deputy shot and killed a Black man while serving a search warrant Wednesday, authorities said, spurring an outcry from community members who demanded law enforcement accountability and the immediate release of body camera footage. Authorities wouldn't provide details of the shooting but an eyewitness said that Andrew Brown Jr.

was shot while trying to drive away, and that deputies fired at him multiple times. The car skidded out of Brown's yard and eventually hit a tree, said Demetria Williams, who lives on the same street. Williams said after hearing one gunshot, she ran outside, where she saw other shots being fired at the car. "When they opened the door he was already dead," Williams told The Associated Press. "He was slumped over." She said officers tried to perform chest compressions on him.

DA: No charges against officer in Tennessee school shooting

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—The police officer who shot and killed a student in a Tennessee high school will not face criminal charges, a district attorney announced Wednesday. Knox County District Attorney General Charme Allen said she determined the shooting of 17-year-old Anthony J. Thompson Jr. by Knoxville police Officer Jonathon Clabough was "justifiable" under Tennessee's self-defense law. Allen added that she wouldn't press any other charges against the three other officers present at the time of the April 12 shooting at Austin-East Magnet High School in the East Tennessee city. "It wasn't an easy case; it wasn't clean cut," Allen told reporters during a lengthy news conference where she released for the first time the various police body camera tapes, surveillance footage, 911 audio and other documents surrounding the shooting.

Asia

Search for Indonesian sub focuses on oil slick off Bali

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Indonesia's navy ships are intensely searching the waters where one of its submarines was last detected before it disappeared with 53 people on board, as neighboring countries are set to join the complex operation.

The KRI Nanggala 402 was participating in a training exercise Wednesday when it missed a scheduled reporting call. Officials reported an oil slick and the smell of diesel fuel near the starting position of its last dive, about 96 kilometers (60 miles) north of the resort island of Bali.

Indonesia's military said that five navy ships and a helicopter were taking part in the search while a hydro-oceanographic survey ship equipped with underwater detection capabilities is on its way to the site around the oil spills. Officials said they had not yet been linked to the missing submarine.

Rescue ships from Singapore and Malaysia are expected to arrive Saturday. The military said Australia, the United States, Germany, France, Australia, Russia, India and Turkey have also offered assistance.

Some worry that the area may be too deep to locate or retrieve the ship, suggesting potential challenges facing the search operation.

"There looks like a terrible tragedy and it's in a very deep part of waters, 7(00) or 800 meters (2,297 feet or 2,625 feet) deep potentially," Australian Defense Minister Peter Dutton told Sydney Radio 2GB.

"It makes it very difficult for the recovery or for location. But there's some assistance that potentially we can apply and the Chief of the Defense Force (Angus Campbell) obviously reached out to his counterpart to say whatever Australia can provide, we will," he said.

The submarine was carrying 49 crew members, its commander and three gunners, the Indonesian Defense Ministry said.

The navy said an electrical failure may have occurred during the dive, causing the submarine to lose control and become unable to undertake emergency procedures that would have allowed it to resurface. It said it believes the submarine sank to a depth of 600-700 meters (2,000-2,300 feet).

The German-built submarine, which has been in service in Indonesia since 1981, was rehearsing for a missile-firing exercise that was to take place on Thursday. Military chief Hadi Tjahjanto and other military leaders were to attend.

Indonesia currently has a

fleet of five submarines and plans to operate at least eight by 2024.

The world's largest archipelago nation with more than 17,000 islands has faced growing challenges to its maritime claims in recent years, including numerous incidents involving Chinese vessels near the Natuna islands.

Last year, President Joko Widodo reaffirmed the country's sovereignty during a visit to the islands at the edge of the South China Sea, one of the busiest sea lanes where China is embroiled in territorial disputes with its smaller neighbors.

His visit came a week after Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Geng Shuang insisted that Chinese fishermen are free to conduct activities in areas China claims as its traditional fishing grounds, which partly overlap Indonesia's exclusive economic zone.

Geng's statement drew indignation in Indonesia and prompted the military to increase its forces at the islands. Although China has been making such claims for years, recently dozens of Chinese fishing boats, escorted by coast guard vessels, have reportedly made more aggressive moves in the area and ignored Indonesian warnings to leave.

4 dead, 9 missing from wayward vessel in PH

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Rescuers in the southern Philippines found the bodies of four crew members Wednesday and rescued seven others who jumped off a cargo vessel, which took in water and listed after its anchor broke in rough seas, officials said.

Nine other crew members of the LCT Cebu Great Ocean remain missing. The coast guard and maritime police were searching for them off Surigao del Norte province, where the vessel ran aground without its crew, coast guard spokesman Commodore Armand Balilo said.

Those who were rescued floated in their life jackets and float rings for two days, Balilo said.

The vessel, which had a crew of 20 and was loaded with nickel ore and about 2,000 liters (530 gallons) of diesel fuel, had dropped anchor off Jabonga town in nearby Agusan del Norte. But it snapped in rough seas on Monday and the vessel took in water and started to list.



In this photo provided by the Philippine Coast Guard, crew members of the cargo vessel LCT Cebu Great Ocean are treated at a hospital on Wednesday, April 21, 2021, after their ship ran aground in Surigao del Norte, Southern Philippines.

"It was during this time when they declared 'abandon ship' and jumped off," a coast guard report said.

The abandoned vessel drifted and ran aground more than 60 kilometers (37 miles) from where it was anchored.

The coast guard asked pass-

ing ships to be on the lookout for the missing crew.

A strong typhoon has left at least three people dead, displaced more than 169,000 in eastern provinces and roughed up weather elsewhere in the archipelago in recent days although it did not reach inland.

World

Israel says it strikes targets in Syria after missile attack

JERUSALEM (AP)—A missile launched from Syria was fired into southern Israel early Thursday, setting off air raid sirens near the country's top-secret nuclear reactor, the Israeli military said. In response, it said it attacked the missile launcher and air-defense systems in neighboring Syria.

The incident, marking the most serious violence between Israel and Syria in years, pointed to likely Iranian involvement. Iran, which maintains troops and proxies in Syria, has accused Israel of a series of attacks on its nuclear facilities, including sabotage at its Natanz nuclear facility on April 11, and vowed revenge. It also threatened to complicate U.S.-led attempts to revive the international nuclear deal with Iran.

The Israeli army said it had deployed a missile-defense system but could not confirm if the incoming missile was intercepted, though it said there had been no damage. The air raid sirens were sounded in Abu Krinat, a village just a few kilometers (miles) from Dimona, the Negev desert town where Is-

rael's nuclear reactor is located. Explosions heard across Israel might have been the air-defense systems.

The Israeli military initially described the weapon fired as a surface-to-air missile, which is usually used for air defense against warplanes or other missiles. That could suggest the Syrian missile had targeted Israeli warplanes but missed and flown off errantly. However, Dimona is some 300 kilometers (185 miles) south of Damascus, a long range for an errantly fired surface-to-air missile.

Syria's state-run SANA news agency said four soldiers had been wounded in an Israeli strike near Damascus, which also caused some damage. The agency did not elaborate other than to claim its air defense intercepted "most of the enemy missiles," which it said were fired from the Israeli-annexed Golan Heights.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the missile strike or comment from Iran. But on Saturday, Iran's hard-line Kayhan newspaper published an opinion piece by Iranian

analyst Sadollah Zarei suggesting Israel's Dimona facility be targeted after the attack on Natanz. Zarei cited the idea of "an eye for an eye" in his remarks.

Action should be taken "against the nuclear facility in Dimona," he wrote. "This is because no other action is at the same level as the Natanz incident."

The Dimona reactor is widely believed to be the centerpiece of an undeclared nuclear weapons program. Israel neither confirms nor denies having a nuclear arsenal.

While Kayhan is a small circulation newspaper, its editor-in-chief, Hossein Shariatmadari, was appointed by Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and has been described as an adviser to him in the past.

Zarei has demanded retaliatory strikes on Israel in the past. In November, he suggested Iran strike the Israeli port city of Haifa over Israel's suspected involvement in the killing of a scientist who founded Iran's military nuclear program decades earlier. However, Iran did not retaliate then.

WORLD BRIEFS

Catholic officials halt activity in Haiti for 9 kidnapped

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—Roman Catholic institutions including schools and universities closed Wednesday across Haiti in a three-day protest to demand the release of five priests, two nuns and two other people kidnapped more than a week ago amid a spike in violence that the government is struggling to control. Catholic officials also organized Masses to pray for those kidnapped—at least two of whom are French—as they tolled the bells at noon at St. Pierre church in Pétionville, where hundreds gathered to show their support. "No one is safe," said 65-year-old Margaret Jean Louis. "I'm hoping the people kidnapped will make it out safely." The April 11 kidnapping of the priests, nuns and three relatives of one of the priests in the capital of Port-au-Prince is one of the most shocking recent abductions in Haiti, which saw a 200% increase in kidnappings last year, accord-

ing to the United Nations.

Nearly 1,500 reported arrested at Navalny rallies in Russia

MOSCOW (AP)—Police arrested nearly 1,500 people Wednesday during a day of demonstrations throughout Russia calling for freedom for imprisoned opposition leader Alexei Navalny, whose health reportedly is in severe decline after three weeks of hunger striking, according to a group that monitors political detentions. The largest of the protests took place in Moscow, where thousands marched through the center city. Some of the people arrested were seized before the protests even began, including to top Navalny associates in Moscow. Navalny's team called for the unsanctioned demonstrations after weekend reports that his health is deteriorating and his life was in danger. "The situation with Alexei is indeed critical, and so we moved up the day of the mass protests," Vladimir Ashurkov, a close Navalny ally and executive

director of the Foundation for Fighting Corruption, told The Associated Press. "Alexei's health has sharply deteriorated, and he is in a rather critical condition. Doctors are saying that judging by his test (results), he should be admitted into intensive care."

Lava from Guatemala's Pacaya volcano threatens towns

EL PATROCINIO, Guatemala (AP)—Residents of small communities living around Guatemala's Pacaya volcano wake each day wondering if the lava will reach their homes. A lava flow descending the volcano has advanced between El Patrocinio and San José el Rodeo. In the case of the latter, the lava has advanced to within two and half blocks of the outermost homes. Emma Quezada, a 38-year-old homemaker in one of those houses, has lived there her entire life and said she's used to the volcanic activity. Still, this time she's afraid. "These last three days the lava stopped; we hope it stays there," Quezada said.

Off The Wall

Canadian lawmaker caught naked during video meeting

OTTAWA, Ontario (AP)—A Canadian Parliament member was caught stark naked in a virtual meeting of the House of Commons.

William Amos, who has represented the Quebec district of Pontiac since 2015, appeared on the screens of his fellow lawmakers completely naked Wednesday. The pandemic has meant many Canadian lawmakers participate in sessions via video conference instead of in person.

A screenshot obtained by The Canadian Press shows Amos standing behind a desk between the Quebec and Canadian flags, his private parts hidden by what appears to be a mobile phone in one hand.

"This was an unfortunate error," Amos said in a statement sent by email. "My video was accidentally turned on as I was changing into my work clothes after going for a jog. I sincerely apologize to my colleagues in the House of Commons for this unintentional distraction. Obviously, it was an honest mistake and it won't happen again."

Claude DeBellefeuille, a legislator for the opposition Bloc Quebecois party, raised the incident in a point of order after question period, suggesting that parliamentary decorum requires male Parliament members to wear



This screenshot obtained by The Canadian Press shows Liberal MP William Amos, top, naked in his office during a video conference call on Wednesday, April 14, 2021.

CANADIAN PARLIAMENT/THE CANADIAN PRESS VIA AP

a jacket and tie—and a shirt, underwear and trousers. Speaker Anthony Rota later thanked DeBellefeuille for her "observations" and clarified that while he had not seen anything, he checked with technicians and confirmed they saw something. He reminded lawmakers to always be vigilant when they are near a camera and microphone.

Amos, the parliamentary secretary to Industry Minister Francois-Philippe Champagne, was visible only to Parliament members and staffers on an internal video conference feed. Because he was not

speaking, his image did not show up on the public feed.

Liberal Party colleague Mark Holland said Amos was "utterly mortified." Holland said he was satisfied with the explanation from his colleague.

"I don't think there was any ill intent. It's certainly an unfortunate circumstance," Holland said.

"This is a warning to everybody," Holland added. "You've got to really always assume that camera is on and be very careful any time you wander anywhere near that camera that you're dressed appropriately."

Mexico Museum of Natural History & Science identifying the shark as a separate species. He named the 6.7-foot (2 meter) monster *Dracopristis hoffmanorum*, or Hoffman's Dragon Shark, in honor of the New Mexico family that owns the land in the Manzano Mountains where the fossils were found.

What a trill: \$13K flute in the wind since 2012 recovered

BOSTON (AP)—A \$13,000 flute that went missing nearly a decade ago has been returned to its owner after police recovered it from a Boston music store, police said Wednesday. The flute was reported missing in 2012 after its owner left it in a taxi cab, according to Boston police. It had been a cold case until this February, when a worker at a Boston music store called with a tip. The worker told police that someone had come to the store with an expensive flute asking about its value. The employee took down the person's contact information and took a photo of the flute and its serial number. The worker later realized it might be the flute that was reported missing in 2012. Earlier this month, detectives spoke with the person who had visited the music store with the flute. The person said he had bought the instrument from an unknown person, and he turned it over to detectives, police said. But police said they determined he was actually the driver of the taxi on that day in 2012. Police said they plan to bring a complaint against him in Boston Municipal Court.

Science & Technology

Amazon pay-by-palm starts

NEW YORK (AP)—Amazon is rolling out pay-by-palm technology at some Whole Foods grocery stores near its headquarters to make paying quicker and more convenient.

The technology, called Amazon One, lets shoppers scan the palm of their hand and connect it to a credit card or Amazon account. After the initial set up, which Amazon says takes less than a minute, shoppers can scan their hand at the register to pay for groceries without having to open their wallets.

Amazon first launched the technology late last year and at the time said the technology could be used at stadiums, office buildings and other retailers. So far, Amazon hasn't announced any takers. It has been put into use in several of its cashier-less stores and Amazon said it has signed up



In this March 4, 2020 file photo, people walk out of an Amazon Go store, in Seattle.

thousands of users, but didn't provide a specific number.

Privacy experts have warned against the use by companies of biometric data, such as face or palm scans, because of the risk of it being hacked and stolen. Amazon said it keeps the palm images in a secure part of its cloud and doesn't store the information on the Amazon One device. The company said shoppers can also ask

for their information to be deleted at any time.

A Whole Foods store in Amazon's hometown of Seattle started using the technology on Wednesday. Seven additional Whole Foods locations in the area will have it installed in the coming months. Amazon declined to say if or when other locations might get it. There are about 500 Whole Foods stores across the country.

Why you can't hear the voice directions on Google Maps

Q: I use Google Maps on my Android phone, an LG K51. When I'm at home, and the phone is using Wi-Fi, I hear the app's voice directions. But once I'm in driving my car, the voice directions can't be heard. What's wrong?

A: There are several possible reasons that Google Maps' voice directions don't work in your car. Some are caused by phone settings and others are the result of phone-to-internet or phone-to-car connections. Here are some things to try:

■ Check the signal strength of your phone's cellular connection when you're driving. A weak signal can keep the app from running properly.

■ Make sure you are using both of the wireless connections needed for you to hear Google Maps directions through your car's speakers. The first is the basic Bluetooth connection to the car. The second is the "Play voice over Bluetooth" setting. Experts suggest that you go to Settings, click "Navigation settings" and turn on two features: "Play voice over Bluetooth" and "Play voice during phone calls."

■ Your phone and car may have a bad Bluetooth connection. Turn off Bluetooth on both of them, then turn it back on. If that doesn't help, try deleting your car from your phone's Bluetooth settings, then

TECH Q&A

By STEVE ALEXANDER
Star Tribune



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starting the phone-to-car connection again.

■ If the Google Maps cache memory is full, it can interfere with Bluetooth. To empty the cache, go to Settings, Click Apps and tap on Google Maps. Click "Force Stop" to turn off the app's operations. While still in the app, click "Storage," then click "Clear Cache." Restart the app.

Q: I have 40 documents stored as Apple Pages files; each contains embedded color photos and is two to three pages long. I'd like to consolidate the files and have about five copies printed. What software should I use and where can I get the copies printed?

A: Use the Apple Pages program to copy the Pages documents one at a time, and paste each one into a new Pages document (see tinyurl.com/tm3uaj6x). Then use Pages to store the combined document as a Microsoft Word file, using either the .doc or .docx suffix (see tinyurl.com/4xs9uams). Almost any printing service can print from a Word file.

You can either store the new Word document on a flash drive, which you can take to a printing service, or just upload the Word file to the printing service's website. Consumer printing services are available at Office Depot and OfficeMax (see tinyurl.com/7u8p5tr3), Staples (see tinyurl.com/33775k65), FedEx (tinyurl.com/nhttkm67) and Walgreens (see tinyurl.com/b8hz25e6).

After a recent Windows 10 update, Marilyn Jewell of Concord, N.H., received a screen message from the "Microsoft account team." It told her to open an e-mail (on another device) to retrieve the "security code" to access her PC. After she entered the number on her PC, it could no longer print documents in color.

Running the free version of the Malwarebytes security program (see tinyurl.com/z9rxvane) solved her problem, but her plight contains a message for everyone: No legitimate computer company will send you an unsolicited e-mail. If you get one, it's a scam.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Sydney man finds snake in lettuce bought at supermarket

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Alex White thought he was watching a huge worm writhing in plastic-wrapped lettuce he'd just brought home from a Sydney supermarket—until a snake tongue flicked. "I kind of completely freaked out when I saw this little tongue come out of its mouth and start flicking around and realized it was a snake because worms don't have tongues," White said on Thursday. "I definitely kind of panicked a bit," he added. It was a venomous pale-headed snake that authorities say made an 870-kilometer (540-mile) journey to Sydney from a packing plant in the Australian city of Toowoomba wrapped in plastic with two heads of cos lettuce.

'Godzilla' shark discovered in New Mexico gets formal name

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP)—The 300-million-year-old shark's teeth were the first sign that it might be a distinct species. The ancient chompers looked less like the spear-like rows of teeth of related species. They were squatter and shorter, less than an inch long, around 2 centimeters. "Great for grasping and crushing prey rather than piercing prey," said discoverer John-Paul Hodnett, who was a graduate student when he unearthed the first fossils of the shark at a dig east of Albuquerque in 2013. This week, Hodnett and a slew of other researchers published their findings in a bulletin of the New

Life & Style

Mrs. Ireland named new Mrs. World after on-stage fracas

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Kate Schneider from Ireland has been named the new Mrs. World after the reigning titleholder resigned

following an on-stage fracas in which she pulled the crown off the head of the winner of the Mrs. Sri Lanka beauty pageant, organizers said.

Mrs. World Inc. said it has received the resignation of Caroline Jurie and that the first runner-up, Mrs. Ireland Kate Schneider, therefore will be the new Mrs. World 2020.

The website of Mrs. World, a beauty pageant for married women, published a photo of Schneider with the title Mrs. World.

Jurie relinquished her title earlier this month, while defending her decision to remove the crown from the head of this year's Mrs. Sri Lanka titleholder, Pushpika De Silva, who she claimed was unqualified to take part in the April 4 contest because she was divorced.

De Silva said she is separated, but not divorced, from



Mrs. World 2019 Caroline Jurie, center, leaves a police station after obtaining bail in Colombo, Sri Lanka, Thursday, April 8, 2021.

her husband.

"Being apart is one. Divorce is something else," she said on

Facebook.

Jurie, who is also Sri Lankan, was accused of injuring De

Silva in the televised pageant. Four days later, she was arrested on charges of "simple hurt and criminal force" and later released on bail.

Jurie said she was standing against "injustice" and that the pageant was "tainted." She said she wanted to ensure that every contestant had an equal opportunity.

Mrs. World Inc. said in a statement Tuesday that Jurie's "voluntary resignation decision was made solely by Caroline herself."

The incident at the pageant, which was attended by the prime minister's wife, created an uproar in Sri Lanka, which will host the final Mrs. World event this year.

Burning Man mulling mandatory COVID-19 vaccines for August

RENO, Nev. (AP)—Burning Man festival organizers have said that they are considering requiring attendees to prove they have been vaccinated for COVID-19 if the organizers move forward with plans to hold this year's counter-culture festival in the Nevada desert.

The organizers backed off an earlier statement indicating that they had already decided to make the shots mandatory. They say they won't decide for sure until the end of the month whether the event that was canceled last year because of the pandemic will take place this summer.

Burning Man CEO Marian Goodell said in a video message posted on the group's web site on April 8 that "vaccines will be required to come to Burning Man." She erroneously said at that time that the state of Nevada requires that people have proof of being vaccinated at large gatherings.

She acknowledged last weekend in an updated statement on the group's web site that she "misspoke."

Citing a backlash from many long-time attendees at the annual event that draws more than 80,000 people to

the Black Rock Desert about 100 miles (160 kilometers) north of Reno, Goodell clarified that organizers had been formulating their own guidelines on mandatory vaccinations as part of the health and safety plan they must submit to state and county officials.

"We are weighing the gravity of what that does," Goodell said. "And we know that challenges the concept of 'radical inclusion.'"

She said civic responsibility is an important part of organizers' guiding principles but that they realize people in some countries haven't had access to vaccines, nor have most children.

"That's not quite figured out yet. There are plenty of people that are challenging whether it is necessary," she said.

Goodell added: "We hear you. The question of vaccines and how to basically require them, and even from a logistical standing, frankly—all of that, we're taking a look at."

Goodell said organizers also have not decided whether to require or provide testing at the event.

She said they hope to reach a decision by the end of this week and at the latest by April 30.

Prince fans pay respects at Paisley Park 5 years after death

CHANHASSEN, Minn. (AP)—Paisley Park, where Prince lived and worked, welcomed back select fans Wednesday to mark the fifth anniversary of his death from inside his creative sanctuary. Some wore custom Prince clothes and shoes and left flowers and

other mementos as tributes to the late superstar.

The sprawling studio's atrium opened to 1,400 people who were able to snag free reservations, while other fans paid their respects in front of a statue erected outside the front doors in the shape of his famous purple

Love Symbol.

A custom-made ceramic urn shaped like Paisley Park with Prince's symbol on top was originally placed in the middle of the atrium when the pop legend's 65,000-square-foot studio in suburban Minneapolis first opened as a museum in October 2016. At the

request of Prince's family, the ashes were moved to a less prominent spot in the atrium and eventually removed entirely from public view, disappointing the superstar's legions of fans.

Wednesday was the first time the urn has returned to the atrium for display to the public.

LeVar Burton to be 'Jeopardy!' guest host; petition credited

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The 200,000-plus LeVar Burton boosters who signed a petition calling for him to be the new "Jeopardy!" host will get to see him try the job on for size.

Burton is among the final group of guest hosts for the quiz show, which lost its longtime host Alex Trebek to cancer last November and has put off announcing his successor.

Burton's supporters seized

the opportunity to launch an online petition for the actor, who starred on "Star Trek: The Next Generation" and "Roots," and was the host of "Reading Rainbow," the children's educational program.

In his career, Burton has "inspired and shaped the minds of several genera-



Burton

tions of trivia-loving nerds," according to the petition that, as of Wednesday, had 246,000 and counting signers.

In an email, a spokeswoman for Burton said he believes the petition drive

and his social media interactions with fans were factors in the invitation for him to be a guest host.

There was no immediate reply to a request for comment from producer Sony Pictures Television.

TV anchors and journalists George Stephanopoulos and Robin Roberts of ABC and David Faber of CNBC and sportscaster Joe Buck are the other temp hosts getting one-week stints, Sony said Wednesday. The air dates weren't announced.

Mom feels shunned when planned playdates never materialize

DEAR ABBY: I am a mom of two boys, 8 and 12. They both have best friends whose moms I like and I would like to be friends with. My problem is, when we set up a playdate for the boys or make plans, when the time comes around and I text them about it, I don't hear back from them at all. I have even left phone messages a couple of times.

I'm bipolar, and I have social anxiety, so when I say yes to something, it is huge for me. When they don't respond, I feel as though I am annoying them or they're mad at me for some reason. The rejection is starting to upset me, and it's upsetting my children, especially my 8-year-old. My question: How do I deal with flaky moms without ruining my relationship with them?

REJECTED IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR REJECTED: Have these women EVER agreed to a playdate with your children? Flaky is not the way I would describe them. Rude bordering on cruel would be more accurate.

It's time to start cultivating relationships with other mothers. Do not personalize what has been happening because the way you have been treated has less to do with you than what it shows about them. In the future, rather than chase these moms, take your children to a park to play (if one is open) or enroll them in other activities.

DEAR ABBY: I have been divorced for eight years. After

being divorced for a year, I became curious about dating and have been on and off the online dating sites. I have a rule about not meeting anyone with a status of "separated." Knowing myself, I knew I needed time to get over my divorce before welcoming someone in my life.

A man who listed himself divorced for 3 1/2 years and looking for a relationship was actively contacting me and invited me to look at his photos on Facebook. When I did, I noticed he still had his wedding photo posted. I thought it was odd, so I asked him about it. He said it was 20 years of his life, and he just cannot pretend it didn't happen. He said I was reading way too much into it.

My gut is telling me, "Thank you, but no thank you." What are your thoughts, Abby?

PHOTO FINISHED IN NEW YORK

DEAR PHOTO FINISHED: Listen to your gut as you get to know him better. For someone who is divorced and looking for a relationship to leave up a wedding picture with his former spouse makes me wonder if he's lazy about removing pictures from his Facebook, or sabotaging himself because he's not quite as ready to move on to something new as he thinks he is.

DEAR ABBY: My late husband was of the Jewish faith. Our children and I are not. Through the years, kind and generous friends and neighbors have sent cards and gifts for Jewish

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



holidays, which makes me very uncomfortable. What wording would you suggest I use to have this practice discontinued without seeming rude or unappreciative?

NON-JEWISH IN ILLINOIS

DEAR NON-JEWISH: You can get your point across to these thoughtful people by saying something like this: "I appreciate your thoughtfulness, but you should know that although my husband followed the Jewish religion, my children and I do not. We are _____." Frankly, you should have spoken up years ago.

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ACROSS

1 Witch

4 Mark Harmon TV series

8 Flair

12 — Claire, WI

13 Franc replacement

14 Protuberance

15 Anchor

17 Leak slowly

18 See socially

19 Prepped for playing, as a violin

20 Shower bars?

22 Unforeseen problem

24 Forearm bone

25 Skip a night out

29 Buddy

30 Strainer

31 Camp bed

32 Linger too long

DOWN

1 Height of fashion?

2 Motorist's org.

3 Advice

4 Egg holders

5 Adorable

6 Lyricist

7 Lake Gershwin

8 "Stop already!"

9 Lake bird

10 Wood-shaping tool

11 Must have

16 Wine valley

19 Digs of "Private Practice"

20 Wrestling style

21 Norwegian saint

22 Mirror fogger

23 Dark blue

25 Locale

26 Resident

27 Synthesizer pioneer

28 Diminutive suffix

30 Bygone jets

33 Corduroy features

34 Bribes

36 Synthetic fabric

37 Red planet

38 Curved molding

39 Unrivaled

40 Chantilly, e.g.

42 Feeling down

43 Three, in Rome

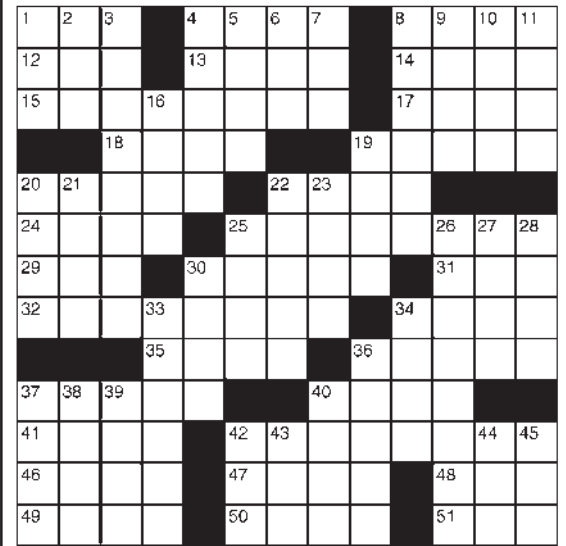
44 Service charge

45 Very long time

Solution time: 25 mins.

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Yesterday's answer 4-23



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Dev Patel, 31; Jaime King, 42; Jonathan Ruckman, 52; George Lopez, 60.

Happy Birthday: Size up whatever situation unfolds this year. Decisive action will help you stay in control while you put your ideas into motion. Actions will speak louder than words and define you as a leader among your peers. Set the standard and offer solutions, and you will become the go-to person. Love and romance will improve your life. Your numbers are 8, 14, 27, 30, 34, 43, 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You'll have to make your opportunities. Look for any opening to use your skills, knowledge and attributes to get ahead. How you conduct yourself around your peers will determine how far you get. Plan to do something refreshing. ★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Take a passionate approach to whatever you do, and you will surpass your expectations. Don't get upset if someone makes a change of plans; in the end, it will play out in your favor. Relax; patience is a virtue. Romance is favored. ★★★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Stop worrying about what others think or do and focus on what you can do to improve your life. Look for opportunities that support continuous growth and stimulate you mentally, emotionally and physically. Educational pursuits are favored. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Expand your interests, friendships and goals. Aim to be the one to make a difference. Look at the possibilities, and consider how to revamp old ideas to fit trends. Put your energy where it counts; bask in success. ★★★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Go over essential details before you sign up for something questionable. It's important not to act in haste or give anyone a chance to take advantage of you. Discipline and hard work will get you where you want to go. ★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Reach out to like-minded people and develop relationships that encourage success. Gather information and learn as you go. A flexible attitude will encourage others to see things your way. An unusual offer will intrigue you. Love and romance are on the rise. ★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Pay attention to the way you present yourself, how you look and what you can do to make improvements. Don't overspend on products that promise the impossible. Recognize that hard work and dedication will pay off. Avoid a "quick fix" offer you encounter. ★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Dream on, and you'll come up with a great plan that will excite you and get you moving in a new direction. Opportunity is within reach, but it's up to you to take advantage of the situation and make things happen. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Pay close attention to what others are doing. Someone will be manipulative if you aren't careful. Put your energy into something that matters to you. Educate yourself before you indulge in something new. Align yourself with like-minded people. ★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Set high standards and goals, and don't stop until you reach your expectations. Em-

EUGENIA LAST THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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brace projects that will make your life easier. Focus on peace, love, happiness and spending time with loved ones. Romance is in the stars. ★★★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Be careful not to overspend or get involved in something that can jeopardize your relationship with someone you love. Look for opportunities that will encourage personal growth, improved health and greater cash flow. Don't give in to someone encouraging excessive behavior. ★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Explore possibilities. Get involved in something meaningful, and you'll connect with stimulating people you find enlightening. A change of plans will turn out to be a blessing in disguise. Love and romance are on the rise, and a lifestyle change is encouraged. ★★★

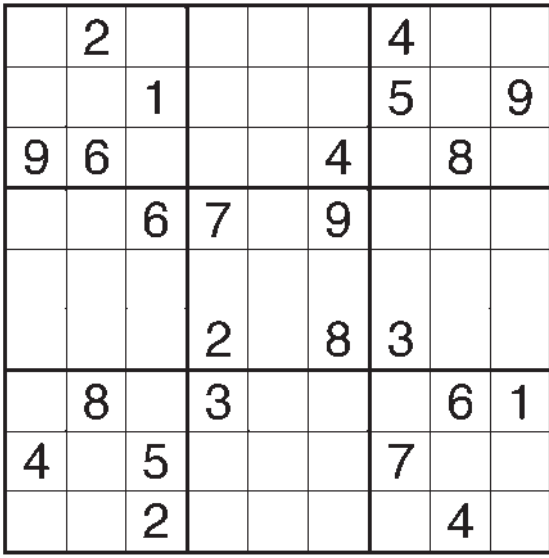
Birthday Baby: You are insightful, articulate and commanding. You are opportunistic and enthusiastic.

★ star: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ★★ stars: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ★★★ stars: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ★★★★★ stars: Aim high; start new projects. ★★★★★ stars: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



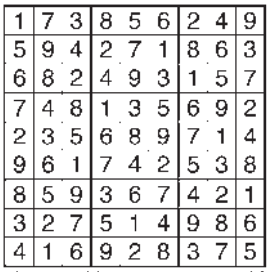
Difficulty Level ★★★★★

4/23

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★★

1/2

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

THE VOLSTEAD ACT

Solution: 5 letters

P S B U R E A U I M P O R T B
S R S A L C O H O L I S M E D
T T O E C I X O T L O T E V W
R W A H S V N R A M A R K E T
A H O S I S P N H A N D R E W
N E I G H B O R S O U B E D P
S E C I A I I P I S M T V R E
P L N I T C N T A S A E E A R
O E T A T B I G I L O V R U C
R R N I L S E H U O I N S G E
T T S A O C U G U O R N I E U N
A N I P S R E J S T I L L S T
X N P B A R T E R N H A R M A
E O D E L I V E R O V O I D G
S I N T E N T K D C E V A D E

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4/23

Alcoholism, Andrew, Barter, Beer, Blaine, Brew, Bureau, Chicago, Coast, Control, Deliver, Detroit, Evade, Guard, Harm, Home, Import, Intent, Justice, Market, Moonshine, National, Neighbors, Opposition, Percentage, Possess, Prison, Prohibition, Regulate, Reverse, River, Sale, Stashing, Stills, Taxes, Toxic, Transport, Usage, Value, Veto, Vice, Void, Wheeler

Yesterday's Answer: Doctor

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Suns top 76ers, improve NBA-best road record to 19-7



PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Chris Paul scored 28 points, Devin Booker had 19 and Mikal Bridges 18 to lead the Phoenix Suns to a 116-113 victory over the Philadelphia 76ers on Wednesday night.

Joel Embiid, who had 38 points and 17 rebounds, heaved a full-court shot at the horn that rattled around the rim and put the All-Star center on his back in disbelief over the near-make.

No matter, the Suns walked off winners on the road for the second time this week against one of the top teams in the East. They are an NBA-best 19-7 on the road and second overall behind Utah at 42-16.

Paul hit five 3s and Bridges, a former Villanova standout, continued to haunt the Sixers three years after an ill-fated draft-night deal. The Sixers selected Bridges with the 10th overall pick in 2018 — a feel-good story because of the Nova connection and his mother worked for the 76ers' parent company. Zhaire played only 13 NBA games and is out of the league while Bridges turned into a breakout star for the blossoming Suns.

The Sixers again played without starters Ben Simmons (unspecified illness) and Tobias Harris (right knee). Seth Curry also missed the game with a left hip flexor.

The Suns were coming off an overtime win in Milwaukee to open their five-game trip.

Knicks 137, Hawks 127, OT

In New York, Julius Randle had 40 points and 10 rebounds and New York beat Atlanta in overtime for its eighth straight victory.

Randle's driving layup with

eight seconds left in regulation gave New York a 122-119 lead, but Bogdan Bogdanovic hit a 3-pointer with 6.2 seconds left to send the game into overtime.

The Knicks scored the first 10 points of the extra session.

Derrick Rose and Immanuel Quickley each scored 20 points for New York.

Trae Young had 20 points and 14 assists for the Hawks, but left the game with 1:13 remaining in the third quarter after suffering an ankle injury. He did not return.

Chris Capela had 25 points and 22 rebounds for Atlanta.

Jazz 12, Rockets 89

In Houston, Jordan Clarkson scored 22 points, Joe Ingles had 21 and the NBA-leading Utah Jazz beat the Houston Rockets 112-89 on Wednesday night.

The Jazz have won four of their last five games. The 23-point margin was Utah's most-lopsided victory over Houston since a 118-91 blow-out Dec. 6, 2018.

Rudy Gobert had 19 points, 18 rebounds and two blocks for Utah.

John Wall led Houston with 21 points and six assists. The Rockets have lost seven of their last eight and 12 of their last 14. Houston is 4-33 since Feb. 4.

Clippers 117, Grizzlies 105

In Los Angeles, Luke Kennard scored a season-high 28 points and short-handed Los Angeles overcame an 18-point, first-quarter deficit to beat Memphis.

Marcus Morris added 25 points and Terance Mann had 19 points in helping the Clippers win their third in a row and 10th in 11 games despite being without starters Kawhi Leonard (sore foot), Paul



Phoenix Suns' Devin Booker reacts after making a basket during the second half of an NBA basketball game against the Philadelphia 76ers, Wednesday, April 21, 2021, in Philadelphia. AP

game home losing streak.

Cleveland coach J.B. Bickerstaff was not at the game for personal reasons, but is expected to return to the bench Friday. Assistant coach Greg Buckner filled in for his longtime friend and colleague.

Kevin Love added 15 points and nine rebounds for Cleveland. Lauri Markkanen scored 14 of his 16 points in the second half for Chicago.

Kings 128, Timberwolves 124

In Sacramento, Calif., Buddy Hield hit a 3-pointer with 8.8 seconds remaining and scored 29 points in Sacramento's victory over Minnesota.

Moments after Minnesota's D'Angelo Russell missed from above the arc, Hield came back the other way and hit his seventh 3 of the game to help Sacramento avoid being swept in the three-game season series.

De'Aaron Fox had 30 points, seven assists and five rebounds for the Kings. Harrison Barnes added 22 points and seven assists. Karl-Anthony Towns scored 26 points for Minnesota.

Heat 107, Spurs 87

In San Antonio, Bam Adebayo scored 23 points, Jimmy Butler had 18 points and 11 assists and Miami Heat beat San Antonio.

Tyler Herro added 22 points. The Heat have won three in a row and nine of 13.

DeMar DeRozan led the Spurs with 15 points.

George and Reggie Jackson, who both rested.

Ja Morant led Memphis with 22 points.

Jaren Jackson Jr. made his season debut for the Grizzlies, with 15 points and eight rebounds to go with five fouls off the bench. He'd been out since August after having surgery on his left meniscus and missing the first 56 games.

Wizards 118, Warriors 114

In Washington, Stephen Curry had his first rough night for Golden State in a month, and Bradley Beal rallied Washington in the fourth quarter for its season-best sixth straight victory.

Coming off a historic 11-game stretch in which he made 78 3-pointers and surpassed Beal as the NBA's scoring leader, Curry scored 18 points on 7-of-25 shooting, including 2 of 14 on 3s.

Beal scored 29 points in he Wizards' first home game with fans in more than a year.

Former Wizard Kelly Oubre Jr. led Golden State with 24 points.

Nuggets 106, Trail Blazers 105

In Portland, Ore., Nikola Jokic

scored 25 points and made three key free throws down the stretch to help Denver beat Portland.

Michael Porter Jr. added 17 points, all in the opening quarter, and the Nuggets won their fourth straight.

Damian Lillard scored 22 points for Portland. The Trail Blazers lost their third straight.

Raptors 114, Nets 103

In Tampa, Fla., Pascal Siakam had 27 points and nine rebounds, OG Anunoby scored 25 points and Toronto beat Brooklyn for its fourth straight victory.

Kyrie Irving had 28 points, 11 rebounds and eight assists for the Nets, and Bruce Brown added 21 points and 14 rebounds.

Nets forward Kevin Durant missed his second game after aggravating a thigh injury Sunday at Miami.

Pacers 122, Thunder 116

In Indianapolis, Malcolm Brogdon had 29 points, 15 rebounds and seven assists, and Caris LeVert scored 28 points and severely short-handed Indiana beat Oklahoma City.

Indiana snapped a three-game losing streak despite

playing without anyone taller than 6-foot-7. Indiana was missing three starters — two-time All-Star forward Domantas Sabonis, center Myles Turner and forward T.J. Warren — and four backups.

Darius Bazley matched his career high with 26 points for Oklahoma City. The Thunder have lost 12 in a row.

Mavericks 127, Pistons 117

In Dallas, Luka Doncic had 30 points and 10 rebounds, Kristaps Porzingis added 19 points and seven boards and Dallas beat Detroit to stop a four-game home losing streak.

Doncic finished with nine assists, just missing his 10th triple-double of the season. Jalen Brunson scored 18 of his 20 points in the first half of a game that was supposed to be played Feb. 17 but was postponed because of severe winter weather in Texas.

Jerami Grant scored 26 points and Cory Joseph added 24 for the Pistons.

Cavaliers 121, Bulls 105

In Cleveland, Collin Sexton scored 30 points, Darius Garland added 25 and Cleveland beat Chicago to snap a five-

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A's win 11th straight, beating Twins in 10 innings



OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—The Oakland

Athletics extended their winning streak to 11, rallying from a two-run deficit and beating the Twins 13-12 on Wednesday when Luis Arraez threw away Ramón Laureano's grounder for Minnesota's second error of the 10th inning.

Nelson Cruz had two home runs and four RBIs for the Twins, and Byron Buxton hit a two-run homer against Lou Trivino for a 12-10 lead in the 10th.

Alex Colomé (1-2) got the first two outs in the bottom half with the automatic runner on second, then walked Seth Brown and Elvis Andrus, loading the bases.

Mark Canha hit what should have been a game-ending grounder to second baseman Travis Blanehorn, who entered as a pinch runner for Josh Donaldson in the 10th, but Blanehorn allowed the ball to bounce off his glove for a run-scoring error.

Laureano hit a one-hopper to Arraez for what again should have been the final out. Arraez, who had moved to third from second base to third for the 10th, sailed his throw over first baseman Willians Astudillo as the tying and winning runs scored.

Oakland started the season 0-6, split its next two games, then went on the 11-game winning streak, the longest in the major leagues since the A's won 11 in a row from May 16-27, 2019. Deolis Guerra (1-0) got the final out of the 10th.

Matt Olson homered twice and had three RBIs for the A's.

Minnesota was swept in the three-game series, the first time the Twins were swept this season.

Braves 4, Yankees 1

In New York, Ian Anderson took a shutout into the seventh inning, Austin Riley homered and Atlanta scraped by with just four hits to beat New York.

Corey Kluber (0-2) kept New York in it with his best start yet in pinstripes, but the Yankees lost for the sixth time in seven games.

Anderson (1-0) limited the Yankees to four hits and four walks in 6 2/3 innings. The 22-year-old right-hander threw 97 pitches as temperatures dipped into the low 40s in the late innings.

New York loaded the bases against Anderson with two outs in the seventh, but reliever A.J. Minter got DJ LeMahieu to hit an inning-ending grounder to third. Will Smith allowed a run in the ninth but closed out the five-hitter.



Oakland Athletics' Ramon Laureano (22) celebrates with Tony Kemp (5) and teammates after two runs scored on a throwing error by Minnesota Twins third baseman Luis Arraez during the 10th inning of a baseball game Wednesday, April 21, 2021, in Oakland, Calif.

ers didn't allow a runner past second base while pitching a career-high seven innings in his 11th major league start, and Miami split the two-game series with Baltimore.

Jesús Aguilar broke a 0-0 tie with a two-out, two-run double in the fifth.

Rogers (2-1) allowed four hits and one walk while striking out eight, lowering his ERA to 1.64 as he gained his third career win. The other two came against two-time Cy Young Award winner Jacob deGrom.

Brewers 4, Padres 2

In San Diego, Omar Narvaez hit a two-run homer, Jace Peterson added a solo shot and Milwaukee beat San Diego to complete a three-game sweep.

San Diego right-hander Dinelson Lamet left his season debut after two scoreless innings due to right forearm tightness. The Padres closed out a 1-5 homestand with their seventh loss in nine games overall.

Padres manager Jayce Tingler was ejected in the eighth after he calmly walked out to argue balls and strikes with home plate umpire Tom Hallion.

San Diego had runners on second and third with two outs in the ninth before Eric Hosmer struck out to end the game, giving Josh Hader a hard-earned third save.

Royals 9, Rays 8

In Kansas City, Mo., Salvador Perez hit a game-ending RBI single and Kansas City beat Tampa Bay to avoid a series sweep.

Jorge Soler, Hunter Dozier and Carlos Santana homered for Kansas City, which trailed 6-3 heading to the bottom of the seventh inning. Scott Barlow (1-0) allowed Joey Wendle's tiebreaking RBI double in the ninth, but got the win when the Royals rallied.

Diego Castillo (0-1) was the loser.

Pirates 3, Tigers 2, 1st game Tigers 5, Pirates 2, 2nd game

In Detroit, Tyler Anderson pitched five solid innings and Pittsburgh beat Detroit in the first game of a doubleheader.

Detroit rallied to win the second game, with Jonathan

Schoop hitting a go-ahead home run in a three-run fifth inning.

In the opener, Pittsburgh scored all of its runs in the fourth inning after Michael Fulmer (1-1) retired the Pirates in order through the first three. Pittsburgh has won five of its last seven to pull within a game of .500.

Anderson (2-2) allowed two runs and three hits with two walks and seven strikeouts. Kyle Crick worked a perfect sixth, and Richard Rodríguez retired the Tigers in order in the seventh and final inning for his second save.

Spencer Turnbull (1-0) allowed one run and two hits in five innings to win the second game, his season debut after recovering from COVID-19. Gregory Soto pitched the seventh for his second save. Miguel Yajure (0-1) gave up four runs and hour hits in 4 2/3 innings in his Pirates debut.

Diamondbacks 5, Reds 4, completion of suspended game Diamondbacks 8, Reds 5, 10 innings

In Cincinnati, Josh VanMeter hit a tying three-run homer in the ninth inning against his former team and Arizona beat Cincinnati for the second time Wednesday.

In the conclusion of Tuesday's night's suspended game, Arizona held on for the victory. Stefan Crichton pitched a scoreless ninth inning for his second save.

The Diamondbacks trailed 3-0 heading to the ninth in the regularly scheduled contest. But Amir Garrett issued two walks before VanMeter drove a 2-2 pitch deep to right for his first homer of the season. VanMeter broke into the majors with Cincinnati in 2019 and was traded to Arizona on Aug. 31.

The Diamondbacks broke it open with five runs in the 10th. Pavin Smith scored on an error on second baseman Alex Blandino, and Wyatt Mathisen had a key two-run single.

The Reds scored two runs in the bottom half of the 10th, but Taylor Clarke (1-0) got Eugenio Suárez to ground out to shortstop and retired Joey Votto on a fly ball to left to end it. Cionel Pérez (1-2) got the loss.

Tuesday's night's game was halted because of heavy rain, and soon snow, after Reds reliever Lucas Sims walked in a run to give the Diamondbacks the lead in the eighth.

J.B. Bukauskas (1-0) got the third out in the seventh for the win in his major league debut. Garrett (0-1) took the loss.

Cubs 16, Mets 4

In Chicago, Javier Báez hit a grand slam and Chicago took advantage of a season-high four errors by New York in a romp on a chilly night at Wrigley Field.

Báez, who struck out four times Tuesday, scored three runs in this one and hit his sixth career slam off reliever Trevor Hildenberger in the sixth inning. The flashy shortstop became the first player to go 0 for 4 with four strikeouts in one game and then hit a grand slam in the next since Gorman Thomas did it for Milwaukee in the first two games of the 1978 season, according to STATS.

David Bote drove in four runs as the Cubs won their second straight after losing six of eight. Matt Duffy added three RBIs and Willson Contreras had two hits and scored twice.

Francisco Lindor hit his first homer for New York when he connected against Zach Davies in the first. J.D. Davis made it 2-0 with an RBI double in the third, but things turned around in a big way in the fourth.

Phillies 6, Giants 5

In Philadelphia, Andrew Knapp hit the winning single in the ninth inning, Bryce Harper had a tying solo homer in the seventh and Philadelphia beat San Francisco.

Harper walked off Wandy Peralta (2-1) to open the ninth, and Brad Miller's fourth hit of the game put two runners. Knapp hit a one-out single to left, and Harper beat Alex Dickerson's throw him, scoring standing up and touching the plate with his fingertips to help the Phillies avert

a three-game sweep against their former manager Gabe Kapler and the Giants.

Hector Neris (1-1) struck out two in a scoreless ninth for the win.

Darin Ruf had a pinch-hit, three-run homer in the seventh off Brandon Kintzler and the Giants went ahead 5-4 in the inning after left fielder Andrew McCutchen dropped a routine flyball for an error with two outs.

Nationals 1, Cardinals 0

In Washington, Max Scherzer struck out nine in six innings to move up to No. 21 on the career list, and Alex Avila drove in the lone run with one of his two doubles, helping Washington edge St. Louis.

Scherzer (1-1) retired 12 of his last 13 batters, working in short sleeves in gusts of 30 mph on a 50-degree late afternoon.

The three-time Cy Young Award winner struck out Dylan Carlson swinging through a 93 mph fastball with his 109th and final pitch. The righty's strikeout of Justin Williams to end the fourth gave Scherzer 2,814 for his career, moving him one ahead of Hall of Famer Mike Mussina. Next up: Mickey Lolich, whose 2,832 strikeouts rank 20th in MLB history.

Washington scored in the second off Carlos Martínez (0-4) on Avila's two-out double to left.

Blue Jays 6, Red Sox 3

In Boston, Vladimir Guerrero Jr. hit an RBI single in the first inning and Toronto scored three more runs in the second in its victory over Boston.

Trent Thornton started and went two innings in a bullpen

game for the Blue Jays. Six relievers followed and held down Boston's potent offense.

Ryan Borucki (2-1) pitched two scoreless innings for the win. Garrett Richards (0-2) was the loser.

Xander Bogaerts hit a solo homer in the eighth for Boston.

Rockies 6, Astros 3

In Denver, Austin Gomber got his first victory for Colorado, allowing two hits over six innings on a wintry afternoon to send Houston to its ninth loss in 10 games.

It was 34 degrees at first pitch and light snow fell throughout the game, gaining in intensity.

Gomber (1-2) allowed Yuli Gurriel's two-run homer in the second but just one hit and a walk after Houston starter José Urquidy (0-2) gave up four runs and six hits in five innings.

Gurriel drove in all three runs for the Astros. Houston also was 7-10 last year before winning eight in a row.

Rangers 7, Angels 4

In Anaheim, Calif., Adolis García hit a go-ahead, three-run homer in the eighth inning in Texas' victory over Los Angeles.

Nate Lowe also homered immediately after García's drive for the Rangers. They have won six of nine after jumping on Los Angeles' bullpen for six late runs to take two of three at Angel Stadium.

García added his 411-foot, go-ahead homer off Mike Mayers (1-1) to his impressive list of big hits for Texas since coming up last week for his first significant big league action since 2018.

Marlins 3, Orioles 0

In Miami, rookie Trevor Rog-

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR



The most difficult part of staging the recently concluded Rollers Basketball Association 2021 Spring Madness League was the absence of fans in the stands, according to league coordinator Ethan Kwon.

“Running a tournament during a pandemic is definitely a lot more work in terms of preparation, having to ensure that we keep following COVID-19 protocols, from temperature checks to maintaining one-way flow of traffic, there was a lot more things we had to do in comparison to hosting tournaments pre-pandemic. Thankfully we

RUNNING A LEAGUE DURING PANDEMIC

Kwon: We really do miss the fans

learned from our mistakes and made improvements from the last tournament we had back in December and things ran smoothly,” he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Kwon, however, admitted that a tournament during the COVID-19 pandemic is just not the same, especially because of the lack of a crowd to cheer on and encourage players.

“We really do miss the fans. It really hurts us—coaches and tournament staff—to deny the entry of fans into the gym, especially the parents of the kids who want to watch

their kids compete. Thankfully our treasurer, Sia Dela Cruz, was able to be there and livestream the games on Facebook so the fans had some way to watch the games while we follow COVID-19 protocols,” he said.

As for RBA’s plans in the future, Kwon said they are still in the conceptualization stage but promised that basketball

is definitely back in the sports calendar as far as RBA is concerned for 2021.

“There are still more tournaments to come. A men’s division? Maybe... a league in the north? Stay tuned...” he said.

Kwon said a lot of people contributed to make the RBA 2021 Spring Madness League a success. “I’m extremely proud of our team it wouldn’t

have possible without everyone’s help. Everyone did their part and everything came together nicely. Outside of our team I really want to thank all of the sponsors: Pacific Amusement Inc. for providing jerseys to our club and members of the CNMI Legislature. Also a huge thank you to the Saipan Southern Hight School Manta Ray Battalion for vol-

unteering.”
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SHIRLEY'S

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Three different players scored for Paire-2 with Robyn Spaeth finding her target in the 16th minute and Shawna Brennfleck and Amanda Dunn in the 25th and 46th, respectively.

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For more information on the Saipan Unity Lions Club’s 5th Mountain and Road Bike Race Event, call Willy Barbo at 287-8216 or visit this website <https://www.webscorer.com/register?raceid=236418>.
(Mark Rabago)

MIDDLE

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ACS nearly swept the boys 200m and 800m with Tang winning the 18U 200m, Peter Peng topping the 14U 800m, and Ray Qi triumphant in the 18U 800m.

Tang topped his age group with a run of 25.05, followed by teammate Bill Li (25.19) and SIS’ Kuu Nishimura (25.94). Peng tore the track by clocking in at 02:25 with GCA’s Theodore Rogers (2:48) and Saipan Community School’s Elijah Ye (2:51) coming in next. Qi, for his part, made his best Flash impersonation by crossing the finish line in 2.22. Nishimura finished second with his 2.23,

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In the girls running events, the Lady Knights won two of four events. MCS’ wunderkind Andrei Kaithlyn Chavez won both the 200m and 400m in the 14U girls with runs of 30.21 and 02:48, respectively. Coming in next to the multi-sport athlete in the 200m were SIS’ Savita Sikkell (30.51) and GCA’s Ella Hall (31.93). Finishing second and third in the 800m, meanwhile, were GCA’s Fiona Regan (03.01) and Sikkell (03.04).

In the girls 18U 400m, Saipan Southern High School’s Casey Cruz rang the bell first with a time of 28.11 with KHS’ Filomenaleonisa Iakopo (28:72) and MCS’ Erina Frink coming in second and third in 28.72 and 29.72, respectively.

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“I was heavily involved in the Saipan Swim Club on all levels and eventually transitioned to assisting the NMI Swimming Federation under John Hirsh,” she said.

While the Pierces are definitely enjoying retirement, Carol Lynn has continued her

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“We are both retired now with nine grandchildren. I have left the administrative side of swimming and am back in the water training with master swimmers. Pre-pandemic I competed in a U.S. Masters National Championships in IM and breaststroke and was swimming 2 1/2 hours a day training for an open water swim.”

Outside of swimming and family, Carol Lynn has also found time to pursue her other passions. “When I’m not visiting family I’m attending Zoom classes, Polynesian dancing, Hawaiian dancing, tap dancing, circuit training, and, yes, learning a new language,” she said.

While she misses friends and family on the island and wishes the CNMI good health and a quick economic recovery, Carol Lynn said what she misses most about island living is the water.

“I miss swimming in the warm Pacific enjoying the journey with the spotted eagle rays. I knew the lagoon like a road map! I’ve swum to Tinian, Managaha, and a 20-kilometer swim from Mariana Resort to Pacific Islands Club.”

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Meanwhile, Tan’s parents, Jerry and Lydia, are proud of their daughter’s latest achievement. “We are proud of her doing well in her running competition,” said Lydia.

“As parents, I am extremely proud of Tania for breaking this CNMI record. She trains very hard every day throughout the years even during bitter cold weather, something an island athlete has to learn to adapt. As everyone knows, U.S. college is highly competitive and Tania is enjoying this challenge. I know she will continue to train hard to hopefully represent the CNMI and do her best at next year’s Pacific Mini Games and Micronesian Games,” said Jerry, who also serves as president of the Northern Marianas Sports Association.

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By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR



The most difficult part of staging the recently concluded Rollers Basketball Association 2021 Spring Madness League was the absence of fans in the stands, according to league coordinator Ethan Kwon.

“Running a tournament during a pandemic is definitely a lot more work in terms of preparation, having to ensure that we keep following COVID-19 protocols, from temperature checks to maintaining one-way flow of traffic, there was a lot more things we had to do in comparison to hosting tournaments pre-pandemic. Thankfully we

RUNNING A LEAGUE DURING PANDEMIC

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learned from our mistakes and made improvements from the last tournament we had back in December and things ran smoothly,” he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Kwon, however, admitted that a tournament during the COVID-19 pandemic is just not the same, especially because of the lack of a crowd to cheer on and encourage players.

“We really do miss the fans. It really hurts us—coaches and tournament staff—to deny the entry of fans into the gym, especially the parents of the kids who want to watch

their kids compete. Thankfully our treasurer, Sia Dela Cruz, was able to be there and livestream the games on Facebook so the fans had some way to watch the games while we follow COVID-19 protocols,” he said.

As for RBA’s plans in the future, Kwon said they are still in the conceptualization stage but promised that basketball

is definitely back in the sports calendar as far as RBA is concerned for 2021.

“There are still more tournaments to come. A men’s division? Maybe... a league in the north? Stay tuned...” he said.

Kwon said a lot of people contributed to make the RBA 2021 Spring Madness League a success. “I’m extremely proud of our team it wouldn’t

have possible without everyone’s help. Everyone did their part and everything came together nicely. Outside of our team I really want to thank all of the sponsors: Pacific Amusement Inc. for providing jerseys to our club and members of the CNMI Legislature. Also a huge thank you to the Saipan Southern High School Manta Ray Battalion for vol-

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Suns top 76ers,
improve NBA-
best road
record to 19-7

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Kwon: We
really do
miss the fans

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24 FRIDAY, APRIL 23, 2021

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Middle school, high school competition starts

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The immediate future of the CNMI's athletics program was in full display yesterday as the high school and middle school qualifiers for the 2021 Public School System All Schools Track and Field Championship kicked off at the Oleai Track and Field.



First on deck were competitions in the 200m, 800, long jump, and discuss and with 11 schools taking part in Day 1 of the high school and middle school qualifiers, the All Schools finished almost at 6pm. In the discuss, Grace Chris-



Grace Christian Academy's Casey Chambers, left, and Kagman High School's Maria Rasa in action in yesterday's discus throw of the high school and middle school qualifiers for the 2021 Public School System All Schools Track and Field Championship at the Oleai Track and Field.



MARK RABAGO

tian Academy's Casey Chambers and Dandan Middle School's Patty Mendiola in the 14U and Agape Christian School's Bonny Bao and Kagman High School's Maria Rasa in the 18U were the talk of the town with their hurling exploits.

Chambers topped his age group with a throw of 20.25m followed by Chacha Oceanview Middle School's Luke Lizama (19.35m) and DMS' Daniel Dela Cruz (18.30m). Mendiola was without peer in the girls 14U after throwing for a distance of 15.9m with Saipan International School teammates Hoo Wang and Yuky Claveria finishing second and third with hurls of 13.05m and 12.40m, respectively.

Bao edged Marianas High School's Tyrik Basa and ACS' Tychicus Su after registering a throw of 23.50m against Basa and Su's identical 23.40m. Rasa, for her part, was the class of her division after impressing with a hurl of 22.3m that brought oohhs and aahhs not only from fellow competitors but also from field officials. Marianas High School teammates Ange-

See MIDDLE on Page 23

Shirley's pulls away; Paire-1 stays on top



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Paire Football Club-2's Kathy Ruszala, left, scans the field before kicking the ball, while Kanoa Football Club's Shirley Kim tries to catch up on defense during their Masters Division game in the Dove Women's Spring League 2021 last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Shirley's Football Club widened its lead in Divisions A and B of the Dove Women's Spring League 2021, while Paire Football Club-1 remained in the driver's seat in the Masters Division after last Sunday's matches at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Shirley's defeated Kanoa Football Club, 5-2, to keep its unbeaten record in six games in Division A and earn three victories ahead of Southern United FC. Jerlyn Castillo scored three goals for Shirley's sweep of the second round, while Gabrielle Race and Katrina Costales contributed one apiece.

Irish Pagarao posted the pair of goals for Kanoa, which dropped to third place in the team standings of the three-round robin competition.

In other results in the division, Southern United notched win No. 3 after dominating TanHoldings, 7-3.

See SHIRLEY'S on Page 23

Calobong-Pierce shocked 3,000m record stood so long

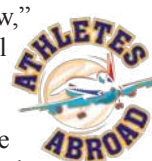
By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Former CNMI resident Carol Lynn Calobong-Pierce congratulated Tania Tan for breaking her 27-year-old CNMI record in the 3,000m.

"I was shocked my record held for so long. But alas records are made to be broken and I am very excited for Tania to be entered in the CNMI

record books now," she said in a social media message to *Saipan Tribune*.

Calobong-Pierce along with husband, Richard W. Pierce, called Saipan home for 30 years where they both raised their children who were swimmers trained by Jean and Bill Sakovich and a tennis player coached by Jeff Race.



"I am well during this pandemic. My family and I have been away from Saipan for almost three years now and spent the last year in isolation from COVID-19."

The 63-year-old said she's very thankful to be a part of the track and field team in the 1994 Micronesian Games in Guam.

See LONG on Page 23



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Carol Lynn Calobong-Pierce, second from left, with Ty Izuka, Bill Sakovich, and Colin Thompson in the 1995 Guam International Master Championship.